DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

RAPID CITY OUTDOOR CAMPUS WEST
AND REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

PENNINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Involving Lands Owned by
South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks - Wildlife Division

Decision Relating to
Federal Assistance Grant FW-23-D-1

March 2010

Prepared by
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks
Division of Wildlife
Pierre, South Dakota

&

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
Region 6
Denver, Colorado
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Purpose and Need .............................................................................................................1
Alternatives ..........................................................................................................................2
  Alternative A (Preferred Action) ......................................................................................2
  Alternative B (No Action) ...............................................................................................3
  Other Alternatives Considered .......................................................................................4
Affected Environments .......................................................................................................4
  Location .......................................................................................................................4
Physical Resources ............................................................................................................5
  Air/Soils .......................................................................................................................5
  Wetland Resources/Water ..............................................................................................5
  Vegetation Resources ....................................................................................................6
Biological Resources ..........................................................................................................6
  Wildlife Resources .......................................................................................................6
  Fish and Other Aquatic Species ....................................................................................6
  Federally Listed Species ...............................................................................................7
  State Listed Species .....................................................................................................7
Other Resources ................................................................................................................7
  Prime and Unique Farmlands .......................................................................................7
  Historic and Cultural Resources ..................................................................................7
  Recreation ....................................................................................................................7
Environmental Consequences ............................................................................................8
  Alternative A (Preferred Alternative) ..........................................................................8
  Alternative B (No Action) ...........................................................................................10
  Cumulative Impacts ......................................................................................................11
Coordination (Public Review) ............................................................................................12
List of Preparers ................................................................................................................14
Literature Cited ..................................................................................................................15
Appendices ........................................................................................................................16
  A. Map of OCW & Regional Headquarters Project Area .................................................17
  B. Aerial Photo of Project Area .....................................................................................18
  C. Wetland Resources (NWI) Map ...............................................................................19
  D. Farmland Classification Map of OCW Property .......................................................20
  E. Soils Map of OCW Property ....................................................................................24
  F. South Dakota SHPO Consultation .........................................................................29
  G. Tribal Historic Preservation Offices Consultation ..................................................31
  H. South Dakota Natural Heritage Program Letter .....................................................35
  I. Site Plans ..................................................................................................................37
  J. Pictures from 2009 Fishing Event on OCW Property .............................................51
Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is for the construction of educational and regional headquarters facilities at the 33.327 acre Outdoor Campus West (OCW) property in Rapid City, South Dakota. The facilities proposed would include a Regional Office, Learning Center, recreational trails, Regional shop, research lab, cold storage building, hunter education center, boat wash station, and casting pier. These facilities would provide outdoor education experiences to youth and adults throughout western South Dakota and to serve as the headquarters for the Wildlife Division staff of the western South Dakota region.

The 33.327 acre property was purchased by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP), from Northwestern Engineering Company (NWE) on December 23, 2008, with hunting and fishing license revenue and donations. Maps of the property and the proposed layout of the campus on the property are attached as Appendix A. An aerial photo of the project area is also included in Appendix B.

The OCW education program focuses on four core areas. These areas include hunting, fishing, outdoor education and outdoor skills. The Outdoor Campus' mission is to provide education about outdoor skills, wildlife, conservation and management practices of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks to all ages in order to preserve our outdoor heritage. The reception of the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls has exceeded all expectations for providing outdoor education to youth and adults in an urban environment. As a result of the success of the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, Rapid City has been very supportive of the idea to construct an Outdoor Campus in the Rapid City area. There are educational programs in the Rapid City area, but the facility space limits the amount of classes and the number of youth and adults that participate in the programs.

The current Regional Headquarters for western South Dakota is located at 3305 West South Street in Rapid City, South Dakota. The office environment is very cramped with two people sharing an office intended for only one person. Due to limited space, the conference room becomes unusable during the summer in order to make room for interns. The lab is not large enough to handle the amount of needed use. The lab is utilized by wildlife staff for aging teeth, CWD sampling, mountain lion blood sampling, fish aging, mortality investigations, and other data collection activities. Additionally, there is not enough space at the current facility to store trucks and other necessary equipment. There is a shop near Spearfish approximately 50 miles away from Rapid City. The current facility headquarters does not have the ability to provide outdoor education classes which are currently held at the Visitors Center at Cleghorn State Fish Hatchery or other various locations.

A larger office facility with additional parking is needed to accommodate the number of staff at the facility is needed. A larger research lab is needed to accommodate the volume of work that it is needed. We would also relocate the shop and equipment, stationed at Spearfish, to the new facility which would provide a more centralized location.

An outdoor education facility is becoming more and more of a need when kids are spending less and less time outside. Following “No Child Left Inside”, SDGFP has proposed the construction of the outdoor education facility to bring those kids in and spark their interest in the outdoors.
The construction of the Outdoor Campus, Regional Office Facility, parking areas, trails, utilities, and landscaping would be funded through the use of license revenue and donations. The construction of the shop, research lab, cold storage building, fishing pier, boat wash station and hunter education center would be funded using Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration funds and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds. The use of these funds for the development of the shop, research lab, cold storage building, fishing pier, boat wash station and hunter education center constitutes a federal action pursuant to the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to examine the impacts of the development of the entire Outdoor Campus and Regional Office Complex on the human environment.

Upon examining the effects of this proposed development project, SDGFP has determined that the affected public and public interests would benefit most through the proposed construction of the OCW and the Regional Headquarters Complex.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A (Preferred Action)

Construction of the Outdoor Campus West and Regional Headquarters facility at Property Acquired from Northwestern Engineering Company

The Preferred Action consists of the construction of a Regional Office, Learning Center, recreational trails, Regional shop, research lab, cold storage building, boat wash station, hunter education center, and casting pier. The Preferred Action would provide outdoor education experiences to youth and adults throughout western South Dakota and to serve as the headquarters for the Wildlife Division staff of the western South Dakota region.

The Regional Office would house all the regional staff stationed in the Rapid City area. Regional Wildlife Staff who would use this facility include, but are not limited to: Regional Wildlife Administrative staff, Regional Wildlife Biologists, Regional Fisheries Biologist, Regional Habitat Biologists, Regional Law Enforcement staff, Education and Information staff, seasonal positions, and interns. The Regional Office building would be attached to the Outdoor Learning Center and both buildings would be open to the public. There would be a designated staff parking area and a designated visitor parking area.

The Outdoor Learning Center portion of the building would include a few class rooms, several hands-on interactive displays, gathering areas, restrooms, library, activity areas, and storage. A concept plan can be found in the Appendices under Site Plans.

The Regional Shop and Research Lab would be housed in one building. The site plans for this building are included in the Appendices under Site Plans. The Regional shop would be used by wildlife, fisheries, habitat, and law enforcement staff. The building would provide a centralized location for maintaining machinery, boats, trucks and other equipment needed to carry out day to day activities by the Regional staff. The Regional Shop would also house the Law Enforcement freezer. The Regional Shop and Research Lab will not be open to the
The Research Lab would provide an up-to-date laboratory atmosphere with a new ventilation system and sufficient space for staff dealing with big game, small game, and fish. More specifically, the lab would be utilized by wildlife staff for aging teeth, CWD sampling, mountain lion blood sampling, fish aging, mortality investigations, and other data collection activities. The Research Lab may be used by South Dakota State University students and faculty who are doing research studies in the Western Region of the state. However, the Research Lab would be closed to the public due to safety as research labs have specific protocols for handling materials and tissues.

A Cold Storage Building would be constructed to provide a centralized location for storing machinery, fisheries boats, and equipment. One major benefit to having an enclosed cold storage building is that it reduces the amount of wear and tear on machinery, boats, and equipment by storing them out of the seasonal weather. This building would also be closed to the public.

A boat wash station would be constructed in the shop complex. The entire campus would be connected to Rapid City water and sewer. The boat wash station would be used by regional fisheries staff to keep boats clean to decrease the risk of spreading invasive species from one body of water to the next. The debris from the boat wash station would be collected in the sewage system. Any solid debris would be disposed of in a manner appropriate depending on the type of debris.

A Hunter Education Activity Center would be constructed separate from the main Outdoor Learning Center. This small building would be located adjacent to a walking path originating from the main Outdoor Learning Center. The activity center would be used for storing archery equipment and targets. An outdoor archery range would be set up adjacent to the small building. This facility would be open to the public to provide archery shooting opportunity to anyone interested in the sport.

The casting pier would be constructed right outside the Outdoor Learning Center facility. The pier would be used for educating children and adults in regular casting and fly fishing casts, as well as other techniques. The casting pier will also be used in aquatic education courses, clinics, and for interested individuals or families wanting to learn the basics of fishing.

There are a few roads that would need to be constructed. Prior to the purchase of the property, a road into the property had already existed. However, that road would need to be replaced and constructed in a way to meet the needs of the visitors to the Outdoor Campus Facility, as well as the Regional Staff. Proposed roads and parking areas are shown in the site plans located in the Appendix.

Alternative B (No Action)

If no action is taken, SDGFP staff would continue to work at its current office location and use the shop facilities at the Spearfish location. As such, management challenges associated with a cramped office conditions and distance traveled to maintain Game Production Areas would
continue to exist.

Additionally, if there were no Outdoor Campus facility constructed in Rapid City, the outdoor education programs and clinics currently offered by GFP would not be able to expand beyond what is currently offered in the Rapid City area.

Other Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed Further

*Construction of the Outdoor Campus West and Regional Headquarters at Cleghorn State Fish Hatchery property*

SDGFP considered constructing the new facility at the current Cleghorn State Fish Hatchery property. SDGFP heard much opposition from the public and the City of Rapid City due to the need of constructing additional pumps at the site for water sources for the City of Rapid City. SDGFP has agreed to sell a piece of the hatchery property to the City in order for them to construct the water pump station. As a result, this alternative is not viable for SDGFP.

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS**

**Location:**

The 33.327 acre OCW and Regional Headquarters construction project site is located in the northwestern portion of Rapid City, South Dakota, in Section 33, Township 2 North, Range 7 East.

The legal description is as follows:

```
Lot Two (2) of NEW Subdivision, in the City of Rapid City
And
Block Two (2) of Tract G of the North End of Meadowwood in the City of Rapid City
And
Lots One (1) through Six (6), inclusive, Lot Seven (7) less the South twenty feet (S20') of the West One Hundred Feet (W100') thereof, Lot Eight (8) less the West One Hundred Feet (W100') thereof, and Lot Nine (9) all in Block One (1) of Tract G of the North End of Meadowwood, in the City of Rapid City

All within Section 33, Township 2 North, Range 7 East of the Black Hills Meridian.
```

According to a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the Potential Game, Fish & Parks Outdoor Campus Site, (Properties Owned by Northwestern Engineering), Rapid City, South Dakota (FMG Inc. 2008), the area has been predominately residential and that individuals who were interviewed for the survey indicated that the area may have been a horse pasture in the past. Surveyors also could not find any evidence of any commercial activities. The survey also mentioned that NWE purchased properties surrounding the quarry in order to minimize the impacts of dust from the quarry on neighbors.
**Physical Resources**

The proposed site for the Rapid City Outdoor Campus lies within a topographic feature called the "Red Valley" of the Black Hills along an unnamed tributary of Rapid Creek. The Red Valley or "racetrack" is a narrow to several mile wide valley encircling the Black Hills comprised of soils derived from Triassic and Jurassic age sandstones and shale's of the Sundance and Spearfish formations. The Red Valley lies immediately inside the Hogback Ridge which forms the outermost rim of the Black Hills.

**Air/Soils:**

The soils at the OCW property comprises of approximately 63% of Winetti cobbly loam, 24% of Tilford silt loam, 7.5% Tilford-Urban land complex, 4% Gypnevee-Rock outcrop-Urban land complex, and 2% Rock outcrop-Sawdust complex.

The OCW would be located across the road from the Hills Materials Quarry. There may be dust in the air as the result of day to day activities at the quarry. In the environmental survey done by FMG, Inc., FMG interviewed Brad Schulz who works in the Air Quality Division of the South Dakota Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. Brad Schulz reported to FMG that the Rapid City area is in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (FMG, Inc. 2008).

**Wetland Resources/Water:**

The OCW property contains four ponds. The largest of the three ponds is locally known as Dean’s Pond (labeled as #1 on Pond Map in Appendix C. The source of water for Dean’s Pond is a spring that is an up gradient of Minnekahta Limestone that outcrops to the north of the site. Dean’s Pond has been used to irrigate surrounding land. Parts of the irrigation system can be seen surrounding the pond. Another smaller pond (#2) is located on the east side of Dean’s Lane; this pond has a concrete structure on the east side of the pond and an electric pump on the west side. The concrete structure is what remains of the water source that previously supplied water to the former Dean’s residence, before being hooked up to the City water. A PVC pipe empties into this pond originating from the house. It has been determined that the roof runoff and the sump pump in the house would have been diverted through the pipe and into the pond. On the western side of the property is another pond (#3), this pond has a concrete spillway on the east side of the pond. One other area that is more of a marshy area (#4) where water from a small stream emptying from Dean's Pond flows under Dean Lane and into this area.

There are a few streams that flow through the property. One stream is Lime Creek, which enters the property from the southwestern side of the property. This creek flows southwesterly through most of the property and then turns south. Another unnamed stream passes through the property in a north/south direction.
Vegetation Resources:

The vegetation of this 33.327 acre site can be categorized into three general land cover types. The northwest corner of the site has a few acres of Ponderosa pine woodland with a native grass understory. Much of the rest of the site is open grassland. While there are a few small remnants of native prairie vegetation, most of this grassland vegetation is dominated by exotic tame grasses like Kentucky bluegrass, crested wheatgrass and smooth bromegrass. The third general land cover type is a meandering riparian zone that follows a spring-fed perennial stream. This patchy riparian zone includes stands of plains cottonwood and other deciduous trees, emergent wetland, and artificial, open-water ponds constructed by previous owners.

Biological Resources

Wildlife Resources:

The OCW property hosts a variety of game and non-game species, with specific species composition being a reflection of habitat composition, habitat conditions and season of the year. Common game species located on and around the area include mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Merriam’s Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*), American widgeon (*Anas americana*), blue-winged teal (*Anas discors*), Northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*) and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

Non-game species commonly located on or in the vicinity of the area include deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), prairie vole (*Microtus ochrogaster*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), Mink (*Mustela vison*), Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttalli*), yelow bellied marmot (*Marmota flaviventris*), common gartersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), bull snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapilla*), Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), robin (*Turdus migratorius*), red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), Western meadowlark (*Sturnell neglecta*), common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), white-winged crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*), common redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*), pine siskin (*Carduelis pinus*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*).

Fish and Other Aquatic Species:

The OCW property has several streams and four ponds. Dean’s Pond, which is the largest pond on the property, has been used by local children as a fishing pond. Dean’s pond and the streams that run through the property, have the potential to sustain viable populations including snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentine*), painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), leopard frog (*Lithobates blairi*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*).
and white sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*).

**Federal Listed Species:**

No federally listed, threatened or candidate species as per the Endangered Species Act are known to occupy or occur on the OCW property. The proposed development would not affect or impact endangered, threatened, or candidate species or critical habitat in the area for these species, as stated in the attached letter (Appendix G) from the South Dakota Natural Heritage Program.

**State Listed Species:**

There are no known State listed species occurring on the OCW property.

**Other Resources**

**Prime and Unique Farmlands:**

The 33.327 acre OCW property does not contain any prime or unique farmland. There is a garden on the property that had been used by the employees of NWE. Interviews done as part of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment indicate that the area may have been used as a horse pasture in the past. A map showing the location and classification of soils on the OCW property is attached as Appendix D.

**Historic and Cultural Resources:**

A search of the South Dakota ARMS database indicated no cultural or historic properties on the OCW property. Additionally, a Level III cultural resources inventory survey was completed on the OCW property. No historic properties were identified during the survey, and the South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the determination of No Historic Properties Affected by the proposed undertaking. The concurrence letter from the South Dakota Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is located in Appendix E. Consultation letters were also sent out to nine tribal offices as listed in Appendix F. No correspondence was received from any of the nine tribal offices. One tribe, on a previous project, sent a letter of interest indicating counties where they want to participate in consultation and Pennington County was not listed. The letter of interest is also included in Appendix E.

**Recreation:**

The OCW property prior to its purchase was private property owned by NWE. According to the Phase I Environmental Survey, the large pond on the property, known as Dean Pond, was used by local children as a fishing pond for many years. It is unknown whether the pond was privately stocked with fish or not. GFP did not stock any fish in this pond.

No other forms of recreation were known to occur on the property. After the purchase
of the property, SDGFP has held fishing clinics and other aquatic education classes at the property.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Alternative A (Preferred Action)

The OCW and Regional office building would be built parallel with Dean’s Pond. The building would have a casting pier located just outside the Learning Center where youth and adults would be able to learn how to cast a rod and fly-fish. The pond would provide a catch and release fishing opportunity for classes and programs. The pond will be stocked with trout. There would be no negative impact to the water resources at this site. The water resources would provide a very unique opportunity for stream ecology, fishing techniques, and other aquatic education opportunities.

Physical Resources

Air/Soils:

There would only be a temporary impact on the air quality in the immediate vicinity of the construction area if the soil becomes dry and equipment creates dust. After construction is complete, there would be no impacts to air quality as the result of the OCW presence on the property.

The area of the OCW property where the Outdoor Learning Center and the Regional Offices building would be constructed is located on Winetti cobbly loam (WtB). The WtB soil has a construction rating of “Very Limited,” which means that the soil has one or more features that are not favorable for the specified use. A soils map is attached in Appendix E. A geotechnical report was done by American Engineering Testing, Inc. (2009). This information was taken into consideration in the engineering and architectural design of the facility.

Wetland Resources/Water:

The development would not negatively affect the integrity or value of the wetland resources as they presently exist on the SDGFP property. Further, it is anticipated that the wetlands habitat located on the property would provide a unique educational resource for the Outdoor Learning Center. A fishing pier and pedestrian bridge are proposed for the site and the necessary 404 permit has been obtained. The irrigation lines would be removed from the property.

Vegetation Resources:

The proposed development would not affect the integrity or value of the existing vegetation present on the property as the area of development in comparison to the
overall property is small. There are a few small remnants of prairie vegetation, but the
site is dominated by exotic tame grasses as the result of disturbance to the site and
surrounding properties. Vegetation on the property would remain in place for wildlife
habitat benefits and educational classes for the public. Areas affected by the
construction would be re-vegetated with grass seeding and a variety of tree species.

**Biological Resources**

**Wildlife Resources:**

The development may initially impact the local wildlife species during construction due to
aversion. After the construction of the campus facilities are complete, the wildlife
species that may have avoided the property are expected to return. Due to the facility
being in an urban setting, the wildlife that are living in the area may already be
conditioned to traffic and other activities normally found in an urban setting.

**Fish and Other Aquatic Species:**

The proposed development would not negatively affect aquatic wildlife species, and the
wetlands on the OCW property would remain intact after construction. The streams and
ponds would continue to provide seasonal habitat for aquatic species. The large pond
will be stocked with fish and will be a catch and release fishery. There will be minimal
harvest for teaching the public how to clean fish.

**Federal and State Listed Species:**

The proposed development would not affect or impact state or federal listed
endangered, threatened, or candidate species or critical habitat in the area for these
species as these species and their habitats are not present at the OCW property.

**Other Resources**

**Historic and Cultural Resources:**

A Level III cultural resources inventory survey was completed for the OCW property in
which no historic properties were identified. The South Dakota SHPO concurred with
the determination of *No Historic Properties Affected* by the proposed undertaking. No
comments were received from Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. See Appendix E and
F for copies of consultation documents.

**Prime and Unique Farmland:**

There is no prime and unique farmland located at the property. No conversion of any
agricultural lands to non-agricultural use is anticipated and therefore no negative affect
would occur.

**Recreation:**
The proposed development would enhance the amount of recreation by providing better fishing access and programs, and additionally there would be a Hunter Education Center where youth and adults can learn about archery, which will include an outdoor archery range. The trails that would be constructed could be used by walkers, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and other naturalist programs.

**Alternative B (No Action)**

If the No Action alternative occurs, there would be no construction of the Outdoor Campus West or the Regional Headquarters facilities at the OCW property. Outdoor education opportunities would be limited to current conditions and would not be able to expand. Staffing space at the current office facility would continue to be a problem. Habitat, Wildlife and Fisheries staff would continue to operate with machinery being stored in multiple places where there is space that may be leased from other agencies or businesses, rather than at one centralized location.

**Physical Resources**

**Air/Soils:**

If there was no construction there would not be any potential for dust to be created by the construction of the facilities. Additionally, there would be no concerns about soil types and their impacts on construction.

**Wetland Resources:**

The wetlands would remain as they are.

**Vegetation Resources:**

Without the development on the SDGFP property, there would be no affect on the existing vegetative resources.

**Biological Resources**

**Wildlife Resources:**

With no development on the OCW property, there would be a no affect on current wildlife resources. Additionally, there would be no habitat enhancements done to support wildlife in this area.

**Fish and Other Aquatic Species:**

Without additional wetland habitat improvements to the OCW property, including vegetative restorations, there would be no affect on aquatic species.

**Federal and State Listed Species:**
Because the OCW property contains no state or federal listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species or critical habitat in the area for these species, there is no affect for this alternative.

**Other Resources**

*Historic and Cultural Resources:*

The SDGFP property contains no known historic and cultural resources, and therefore no historic properties would be affected by this alternative.

*Prime and Unique Farmland:*

There is no prime or unique farmland located at the property.

*Recreation:*

Additional recreational opportunities would not be created.

In summary, when assessing the impacts of SDGFP’s decision for developing the OCW and Regional Headquarters Facilities, it appears that the Preferred Action would utilize habitat features at the OCW property for educational purposes for the public. Recreational opportunities for youth and adults would be expanded. These are all important to the Rapid City community and benefit many people.

**Cumulative Impacts**

A cumulative impact is defined in 40 CFR 1508.7 as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.”

SDGFP purchased the OCW property from NWE to provide a place for youth and adults to come and learn about aquatic resources and outdoor recreation. Since the property was purchased, fishing clinics have been held at Dean’s pond. Through the development of the OCW property, the amount of outdoor education classes would be expanded to include more terrestrial and aquatic types of education. This is a very positive impact for the community.

Trails would be developed through the property in order to provide the public with opportunities to learn about a variety of habitats located on the property. Trails would also encourage visitors to limit the amount of deterioration of off trail excursions.

The ponds and streams located on the property would be used for fishing clinics and aquatic education. There would not be open fishing at the pond and would only be used for educational purposes.
The buildings that would be constructed on the site would initially have an impact during construction as wildlife tends to avoid areas of construction. However, the local wildlife are also habituated to the developed residential environment, so the impact by the construction would be short term and minimal. The building sites make up a small portion of the overall area of the property. There are currently roads entering the property. In some areas, those roads would be removed. In other areas of the property, the roads would be replaced with infrastructure more suitable for the facility use. There would be an increase in the amount of people entering the property on the new road and parking area.

Overall, the cumulative impacts would be positive and the area would create a valuable learning resources as well as a very centralized location for Regional staff to be able to manage the resources in the western region of South Dakota.

COORDINATION (PUBLIC REVIEW)

There has been a considerable amount of public involvement in the proposed site development prior to the writing of this EA.

An Advisory Group was formed and has met on the following dates:
- 12/17/08
- 1/07/09
- 2/18/09
- 5/13/09
- 9/8/09

The Advisory Group consists of the following individuals:
Dick Brown  South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation
Sue Brown  South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation
Jeff Olson  GFP Commissioner
Jim Scull  BH Sportsmen’s Club
Kitty Kinsman  South Dakota Parks & Wildlife Foundation
Ev Hoyt  BH Sportsmen’s Club
Ken Barker  Former GFP Commissioner
Karen Gunderson Olson  RC City Commission
Donovan Broberg  Architecture International
Alan Hanks  RC Mayor
Tom Troxel  RC Chamber of Commerce
Jerry Cole  RC Parks and Recreation Director
Michelle Lintz  Rapid City Convention and Visitors Bureau
Bill Keck  Retired Extension Educator
Steve Price  Norbeck Kids
Pete Wharton  RC Superintendent
Larry Stevens  South Middle School Principal
Steve Kirsch  RC Teacher
Van Lindquist          RC Parks and Recreation Board
Scott Simpson          GFP, Chief of Administrative Resources
Tony Leif              GFP, Wildlife Division Director
Chad Tussing           GFP, Outdoor Campus West Director
Chuck Schlueter        GFP, Information & Education Administrator
Thea Ryan              GFP, Outdoor Campus Director, Sioux Falls
Laurie Root            GFP, Naturalist
Mike Kintigh           GFP, Regional Supervisor

Public presentations given as of January 21, 2010:
- Walleyes Unlimited
- Black Hills Fly Fishers
- Rapid City Optimists
- Rushmore Rotary
- Black Hills area elementary principals
- SD Math & Science Teachers’ conference
- General gathering of Rapid City area outdoor clubs
- Rapid Creek Preservation Society
- Rapid City Council
- Rapid City Izaak Walton League Chapter
- Delta Kappa Gamma professional education sorority

Other meetings, appearances, interviews, etc.:
- Two appearances on the KOTA TV Noon Show.
- Public “open house” and kids’ fishing event on May 16, 2009.
- “Cache & Dash” geocaching event for area geocachers.
- Several visits with neighboring Synagogue of The Hills
- Interview by Dakota Outdoor Radio
- Site visit with Karen Gunderson Olson (RC City Council)
- Various GFP Commission meetings as information item & for approval of expenditures

More public support through the Parks & Wildlife Foundation fundraising committee:
- Ev Hoyt
- Dick & Sue Brown
- Jack Lynass (Black Hills Community Bank)
- Dr. Jeff Olson (GFP Commission)
- Dr. Tom Kafka
- Bruce Rampelberg
- Kitty Kinsman
- Scott Landguth

People can find out more about the OCW at the website, www.outdoorcampus.org, on Twitter: outdrcampuswest, and on Facebook: The Outdoor Campus-West.
As part of the public review for this Draft Environmental Assessment, public comments would be collected by the USFWS for a period of 30-days. Those comments would then be added to the Final Environmental Assessment document.

LIST OF PREPARERS

Nora Kohlenberg, Federal Assistance Coordinator, Division of Wildlife, SDGFP, Pierre, SD

Chad Tussing, Outdoor Campus West Director, Division of Wildlife, SDGFP, Rapid City, SD

Scott Simpson, Chief of Administrative Resources, Division of Wildlife, SDGFP, Pierre, SD

Eddie Bennett, Grant Specialist, USFWS - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, Region 6, Lakewood, CO

Anna Schmidt, Grant Specialist, USFWS - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, Region 6, Lakewood, CO

Connie Young-Dubovsky, Team Leader, USFWS - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, Region 6, Lakewood, CO
LITERATURE CITED


Archeological Research Center. 2009. An Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Rapid City Outdoor Campus Site, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota; Contract Investigation Series No. 2377 by Terri Bruce.

FMG. Inc., 2008. Level I Environmental Site Assessment for The Potential Game, Fish & Parks Outdoor Campus Site, (Properties Owned by Northwestern Engineering) Rapid City, South Dakota.
Appendix A: Map of Project Area

Federal Aid Project Proposal
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Name: Outdoor Campus West
County: Pennington
TWN: 2N RNG: 7E Section: 33
Quadrangle Name: Rapid City West 44103-A3
Description of Project: Construct Outdoor Campus West and Regional Headquarters

Approximate Boundary of Campus Property
Quarry
Struhl Canyon School
Springs
Sec 4 T002N R07E
Sec 5 T001N R07E
Sec 3 T001N R07E
Sec 3 T002N R07E
Sec 2 T002N R07E
Sec 1 T002N R07E
Appendix B: Aerial Photo of Project Area
## Farmland Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map unit symbol</th>
<th>Map unit name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Acres in AOI</th>
<th>Percent of AOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GyB</td>
<td>Ogallala-Rock outcrop-Urban land complex, 91 to 20 percent slopes</td>
<td>Not prime farmland</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RnG</td>
<td>Rock outcrop-Savanna complex, 41 to 50 percent slopes</td>
<td>Not prime farmland</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TcC</td>
<td>Till plain, 6 to 15 percent slopes</td>
<td>Not prime farmland</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TrB</td>
<td>Till plain-Urban land complex, 3 to 9 percent slopes</td>
<td>Not prime farmland</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wsB</td>
<td>Wavely-silty loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes</td>
<td>Not prime farmland</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals for Area of Interest</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>34.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or non-farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soil that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

### Rating Options

- **Aggregation Method:** No Aggregation Necessary
- **Tax-break Rule:** Lower
Appendix E: Soils Map of OCVW Property
MAP LEGEND

- Area of Interest (AOI)
- House of Interest (HOI)
- Sub-districts
- Soil Maps

Soil Ratings:
- Very Limited
- Limited
- Not Limit
- Not rated or not available

Public Features:
- Class
- Main Features
- Streams
- Streams and Canals

Transportation:
- Roads
- Interstate Highways
- U.S. Routes
- Other Roads
- Local Roads

MAP INFORMATION

Map Scale: 1:5,840 (approx. 9.5” x 11”) sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped to 1:24 (5B).

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map:
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL:

This product is generated from the USGS-WDC certified data as of the version date of the map sheet.

Soil Survey Area:
- Coon and Pennington Counties, Black Hills
- Park, South Dakota

Survey Area Date:
- 13 Apr 2009

Data and aerial images were photographed:
- 13 Apr 2009

This product or other basic map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized may be from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map and background may be evident.
## Small Commercial Buildings

Small Commercial Buildings—Summary by Map Unit — Custer and Pennington Counties, Black Hills, South Dakota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map unit symbol</th>
<th>Map unit name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Component name (percent)</th>
<th>Rating reasons (numeric values)</th>
<th>Acres in AO</th>
<th>Percent of AO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GyD</td>
<td>Gyneswee-Rock outcrop-Urban land complex, 5 to 25 percent slopes</td>
<td>Very Limited</td>
<td>Gyneswee (47%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rock outcrop (25%)</td>
<td>Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large stones content (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rock outcrop (9%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depth to soft bedrock (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spearfish (5%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depth to soft bedrock (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tillford (3%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ReG</td>
<td>Rock outcrop-lean urban land complex, 40 to 60 percent slopes</td>
<td>Very Limited</td>
<td>Rock outcrop (43%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large stones content (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spearfish (49%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depth to soft bedrock (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Winneti (9%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depth to soft bedrock (0.55)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large stones content (0.55)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Winneti (5%)</td>
<td>Slope (0.85)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIC</td>
<td>Tilted sit 6 to 15 percent slopes</td>
<td>Very Limited</td>
<td>Tiltord (55%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gyneswee (8%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pavansavant (7%)</td>
<td>Depth to hard bedrock (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pavansavant (7%)</td>
<td>Slope (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.D. = Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey
### Small Commercial Buildings—Summary by Rating Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Acres in AOI</th>
<th>Percent of AOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very limited</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat limited</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals for Area of Interest</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Small Commercial Buildings—Summary by Map Unit — Custer and Pennington Counties, Black Hills Part, South Dakota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map unit symbol</th>
<th>Map unit name</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Component name (percent)</th>
<th>Rating reasons (numeric values)</th>
<th>Acres in AOI</th>
<th>Percent of AOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WRB</td>
<td>Windy valley bottom, 2 to 10 percent slopes</td>
<td>Very limited</td>
<td>Wind (85%)</td>
<td>Flooding (1.00)</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Barren (6%)</td>
<td>Slope (3.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flooding (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Channelized (1%)</td>
<td>Shrink-swell (3.25)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flooding (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals for Area of Interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Small Commercial Buildings—Custer and Pennington Counties, Black Hills
Facts, South Dakota

Description

Small commercial buildings are structures that are less than three stories high and do not have basements. The foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of 2 feet or at the depth of maximum frost penetration, whichever is deeper. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the capacity of the soil to support a load without movement and on the properties that affect excavation and construction costs. The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility (which is inferred from the Unified classification of the soil). The properties that affect the ease and amount of excavation include flooding, depth to a water table, ponding, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments.

The ratings are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect the specified use. “Not limited” indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. “Somewhat limited” indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. “Very limited” indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00).

The map unit components listed for each map unit in the accompanying Summary by Map Unit table in Web Soil Survey or the Aggregation Report in Soil Data Viewer are determined by the aggregation method chosen. An aggregated rating class is shown for each map unit. The components listed for each map unit are those that affect the load-supporting capacity as listed for the map unit. The percent composition of each component in a particular map unit is presented to help the user better understand the percentage of each map unit that has the rating presented.

Other components with different ratings may be present in each map unit. The ratings for all components, regardless of the map unit aggregated rating, can be viewed by generating the equivalent report from the Soil Reports tab in Web Soil Survey or from the Soil Data Mart site. On-site investigation may be needed to validate these interpretations and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: Dominant Condition
Component Percent Cutoff: None Specified
Tie-break Rule: Higher

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey
National Cooperative Soil Survey
3/4/2010
Page 5 of 5
October 5, 2009

Ms. Neen Kohlenberg
Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

SECTION 106 PROJECT CONSULTATION – IDENTIFICATION/EVALUATION
Project: 090504003F – Outdoor Campus West, Rapid City
Location: Pennington County
(FWS/CFF)

Dear Ms. Kohlenberg:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). The South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs with your determination regarding the effect of the proposed undertaking on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota.

We have made this consensus determination based on the information provided in your letter and the report entitled “An Intensive Cultural Resource Survey of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Rapid City Outdoor Campus Site, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota,” prepared by Terri Bruce and James A. Donohoe and received on October 5, 2009. We concur with the determination of No Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking as no historic properties as defined by 36 CFR part 800.160(i) were located during the survey of the project area. Activities occurring in areas not identified in your request will require the submission of additional documentation pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.4.

If historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found after the agency official has completed the Section 106 process, the agency official shall avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects to such properties and notify the SHPO/THPO, and Indian tribes that might attach religious and cultural significance to the affected property within 48 hours of the discovery, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.13.

Concurrence of the SHPO does not relieve the federal agency official from consulting with other appropriate parties, as described in 36CFR Part 800.2(c).
Should you require additional information, please contact Paige Hoskinson Olson at (605) 773-6004. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt
State Historic Preservation Officer

[Signature]

Paige Hoskinson Olson
Review and Compliance Coordinator
Appendix G: Tribal Historic Preservation Offices Consultation

EXHIBIT LETTER  

DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS  
Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

September 3, 2009  
Russell Eagle Bear - THPO  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 809  
Rosebud, SD  57570-0809

Re:  Outdoor Campus West, Rapid City, Pennington County

Dear Mr. Eagle Bear:

In fulfillment of the requirements of Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act I am providing you a copy of the planned development, which will involve Federal Aid funding. This project will be funded with Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds, as administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Outdoor Campus West, Pennington Co. -  
This project will involve the construction of an education center and offices, as well as a shop for equipment storage, and parking. Project components that are eligible for federal funding include the shop and some educational facilities inside the main campus building. Educational hikes may also qualify for federal money.

This project will have no negative visual impact upon the project area; this project will provide some positive aesthetics. The site originally had a couple of buildings on the property, but the prior landowner removed those buildings. The site is adjacent to the gravel pit and cement plant complex. The project site is also located in a developed residential area as well. I have attached the Master Site Plan and an aerial photo of the APE.

A records search of the Archeological Records Management System was done for the proposed project location (see enclosures). This search indicates that there are no known sites within a one-mile radius of the proposed project site.

Given the fact that this project is located in a developed area in Rapid City and that the project will provide a positive aesthetic to this area, we recommend a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected." Upon concurrence from the SHPO, and barring any alternate recommendations from your office, we will submit these projects for funding under the Wildlife Restoration Act.
If you have any specific concerns regarding cultural resources at this proposed project location, we respectfully request a written response (within 30 days of receipt of this letter) to include the nature of your concern and alternate recommendations.

If you have any questions, or require additional information regarding either of these proposed projects, please feel free to contact me at 605-773-4675, or via e-mail at Nora.Kohlenberg@state.sd.us.

Thank you for your assistance in our endeavor to safe-guard cultural resources as we implement these range improvement projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Kohlenberg
Federal Assistance Coordinator
Division of Wildlife

Encl.: Project Information and map, ARMS records search
Outdoor Campus

Cultural Resources Tribal Consultations Contact List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Name</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donna Rae Petersen, CPO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Eagle Bear, THPO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rosebud Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rosebud, SD 57570-0430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPO, C/O Tribal Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flandreau, SD 57028-0283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPO, C/O Tribal Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oglala Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 2070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dianne Desrosiers, THPO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sisseton, SD 57262-0509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Jones, CPO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Brule Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oyate Circle, Lower Brule, SD 57548-0187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Mentz, THPO</td>
<td></td>
<td>Standing Rock Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ft Yates, ND 58538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPO, C/O Tribal Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crow Creek Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ft. Thompson, SD 57339-0050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPO, C/O Tribal Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yankton Sioux Tribe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Marty, SD 57361-0248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPO, C/O Tribal Chairman</td>
<td></td>
<td>Three Affiliated Tribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>404 Frontage Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New Town, ND 58763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Date: June 15, 2006
To: SD Department of Game Fish and Parks
   Attention: Nina Koblinberg
From: Cultural Preservation Officers - Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Re: Mina Lake Dam - White Lake Dam - Opal Dam Restoration Projects

Thank you for your invitation to allow us to comment on this very important matter. Although we appreciate the opportunity to comment, we must decline your offer.

We have agreements with certain tribes within areas nearer to our own cultural and historical interests. These interests in Northwestern Iowa are located in the Counties of Lyon, Sioux and Plymouth. In Southeastern South Dakota the counties of Goodings, Kingsbury, Moody, Lake, Miner, Minnehaha and McCook. In Southwestern Minnesota the counties of Blue Earth, Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Murray, Rock and Nobles. This is not to say that we have no interest in the other tribe's cultural and historical backgrounds, rather, it is a matter of geographical differences.

However, thank you again.

Clifford Allen
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Enc: 1

Letter received from the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, dated June 15, 2006, stating counties of interest for consultation purposes.
DATE: December 3, 2009
TO: Doug Backlund
FROM: Nora Kohlenberg
SUBJECT: Outdoor Campus West - Regional facilities

Doug,

The Wildlife Division is proposing to use federal funds to construct a shop and research lab, cold storage building, boat wash station, casting pier and a Hunter Education Center for archery shooting at the Outdoor Campus West site location. A map is attached.

Are any federally listed endangered species, or candidate species, known to occur either permanently or temporarily in the immediate vicinity of this project. If so, will this project have the potential to affect them.

Thanks for your review of this project, Doug

attachment: site map

"No effect" This project will have "no effect" on threatened, endangered, or candidate species as it involves localized disturbance. Based on current information, this project will have no effect on state listed or federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species and will have no significant impact on fish or wildlife resources. If threatened, endangered, or candidate species are encountered during construction, the Department of Game, Fish and Parks shall initiate consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine appropriate steps to avoid any effects to those species, including cessation of construction.

Signature: [Signature]
Date: 12/3/2009
Species considered: whooping crane, Interior least tern, piping plover, black-footed ferret, gray wolf, American burying beetle, Topeka shiner, pallid sturgeon, western prairie fringed orchid, Higgins eye pearl mussel, scaleshell mussel, and Dakota skipper.

This proposed development project would have no negative impact on any of the threatened, endangered, or candidate species considered. American burying beetle occurs in south-central South Dakota. Gray wolves, river otter and black-footed ferrets do not occur in the project area. The pallid sturgeon, scaleshell mussel and Higgins eye mussel are only found in the Missouri River and occasionally along the Cheyenne River. Whooping cranes only migrate through the project area during the spring and fall. The Topeka shiner inhabits prairie streams of eastern South Dakota. The western prairie fringed orchid formerly occurred in eastern South Dakota but has not been seen in the state since 1916. Piping plovers currently nest primarily along the Missouri River and occasionally on shorelines of certain alkaline wetlands of eastern South Dakota. The Dakota skipper occurs in northeast South Dakota. Therefore, this proposed development project would have no effect on threatened or endangered species.
I-1. Whole Site Master Plan
I-2. Building Site Schematic Layout Plan
I-4. OCW & Regional Headquarters Office Front Elevation
I-10. Shop and Research Lab Floor Plan B2-1
I-12. Cold Storage Building Layout B5.1
Appendix J. Pictures of 2009 Kids Fishing Event at OCW Property
Appendix A: Map of Project Area

Federal Aid Project Proposal
South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Name: Outdoor Campus West
County: Pennington
TWN: 2N RNG: 7E Section: 33
Quadrangle Name: Rapid City West 44103-A3
Description of Project: Construct Outdoor Campus West and Regional Headquarters