



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
BOISE FIELD OFFICE
720 E PARK BLVD #245
BOISE, ID 83712

September 3, 2025

Regulatory Division
Corps No. NWW-2024-00522

SUBJECT: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation and Determination of Effects

Ms. Cassandra Schiffler
Arts and Culture Coordinator, City of Meridian
Parks and Recreation Department
33 E, Broadway Ave. Ste. 206
Meridian, Idaho 83642
cschiffler@meridiancity.org

Dear Ms. Schiffler:

This letter initiates consultation in regard to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Corps has received an application for a Department of the Army permit from Lennar Homes of Idaho to pipe 2,561 linear-feet of the Lemp Canal and fill the associated wetlands along the canal in order to construct the Baratza Subdivision. The project is located within Section 34 of Township 4 North, Range 1 West, near coordinates 43.648° N latitude and -116.449° W longitude, in Meridian, Ada County, Idaho. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) case number for this project is 2025-369.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c) and 33 CFR Part 325 Appendix C, the coordinating parties for this project includes: the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada, Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Ada County Certified Local Government, and City of Meridian Certified Local Government.

Description of Corps Permit Area

The term "permit area" means those areas comprising the waters of the United States that would be directly affected by the proposed activities and the uplands directly

affected should the Corps issue a Department of the Army permit. The permittee proposes to pipe the Lemp Canal and to fill the wetlands that are present along the canal. This will entail filling 0.64 acres of wetlands, so the applicant will be required to construct wetland mitigation for this impact. The applicant has proposed to build the wetland mitigation within the footprint of the Baratza Subdivision. The permit area is the areas that will be disturbed to pipe the Lemp Canal and fill the associated wetlands, and the footprint of the required wetland mitigation site. The project plans are included as Enclosure 1. The rest of the subdivision is not included in the permit area because it can be built without a Corps permit.

Investigation

The permit applicant submitted an archaeological and built environment survey for the project site, which was conducted by Hallam Historical Consulting, LLC (Hallam). A copy of the survey report titled "Baratza Subdivision Ada County, Idaho" dated February 2025, is enclosed for your review (Enclosure 2). Hallam conducted an architectural survey of the entire footprint of the proposed subdivision, which is larger than the permit area. Hallam revisited the four existing resources that are within the project area (Lemp Canal (10AA6408), Creason Lateral (10AA6292), Lemp Canal Diversion (10AA1804) and McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375 (10AA7529) and did not identify any new resources within the project area. Hallam updated the site records of all four existing resources in the Idaho Cultural Resources Information System (ICRIS). Hallam recommends that the Lemp Canal is the only eligible resource in the project area. Hallam states that overall, the Creason Lateral is also eligible, but the segment that is within the permit area is already piped, so it is a non-contributing element to the overall Eligible resource. The Lemp Canal was already evaluated to be Eligible, so this recommendation does not change the canal's national register eligibility.

Determination of Effect

The Corps has found the proposed activities would result in an adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C(15)(b) and 36 CFR § 800.5(a). This determination considers that the Lemp Canal is an eligible irrigation resource, and the applicant proposed to pipe 2,561 linear feet of it. Pursuant to the Idaho SHPO policy papers on irrigation waterways, piping a long length of an eligible canal is an adverse effect to the canal. The Corps plans to negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve the adverse effects to this resource.

The Corps would appreciate your concurrence or comment on this determination within 30 days from the date of this letter. This determination, with enclosures, has been furnished to the parties listed above for review. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jason Achziger by telephone at (509) 780-7552 or by email at jason.k.achziger@usace.army.mil or Ms. Anna Jansson, Regulatory Division

Archaeologist, by telephone at (971) 295-1443 or by email at anna.m.jansson@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Jansson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Anna" and last name "Jansson" clearly legible.

Anna Jansson
Archaeologist, Regulatory Division

Enclosure

cc:

Blaine Johnston (HPC Chair) - bjohnston_aia@hotmail.com