

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Tipsinah Mounds Campground Safe Room Grant County, Minnesota

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing funding for the construction of a safe room for the Tipsinah Mounds Campground located 3 miles west of the City of Elbow Lake (N 45° 59' 55.7" and W 95° 53' 15.2"). In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the construction of the safe room and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA also considered impacts under other environmental and historic preservation laws and requirements, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and Presidential Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice). The Proposed Action, as described in the EA, will not result in any significant adverse impacts to groundwater, floodplains, water quality, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, hazardous materials and toxic wastes, public safety, zoning and land use, visual resources, low income or minority populations, or cultural resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, air quality, and noise, traffic and transportation are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas. The project was coordinated with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Native American Tribal Governments, Department of the Army, Office of the State Archaeologist, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The EA was made available for public comment for 30 days; no comments were received.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions were developed to mitigate the potential impacts of this project and must be met as a condition of project approval. Failure to comply with these conditions and the conditions contained in the EA may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals including the Grant County Conditional Use Permit. Proof of permits will be required to be submitted to FEMA for project closeout.
2. The applicant will monitor ground disturbance during the construction phase; should human skeletal remains, or historic or archaeological materials be discovered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities on the project site shall cease and the applicant shall notify the coroner's office (in the case of human remains), FEMA, and the State Historic Preservation Office.
3. If deviations from the proposed scope of work result in substantial design changes, the need for additional ground disturbance, additional removal of vegetation, or in any other unanticipated changes to the physical environment, the Grantee must contact FEMA, and a re-evaluation under NEPA and other applicable environmental laws will be conducted by FEMA.
4. Construction vehicles and equipment would be stored on site during project construction and appropriate signage would be posted on affected roadways. All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in

Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. Construction would take place only during normal business hours and all equipment will meet local, State and Federal noise regulations.

5. Proposed construction activities would require only minimal excavation. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal Regulations.

FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the EA, adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, and FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not have any significant adverse impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVAL

Amanda Ratliff Date
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region V