

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
FOR
THE INSTALLATION OF A GOLF COURSE NET
AT
F. E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, WYOMING

JULY 2017

Prepared by: 90 CES/CEIEC
Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming
Point of Contact: Mr. Travis Beckwith, (307) 773-3667

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1. INTRODUCTION

F. E. Warren Air Force Base (FEW) proposes to install a net along the eighteenth (18th) fairway of the FEW golf course. The proposed action includes the installation of a 900 feet long and 50 feet high net along the southern edge of the golf course. The proposed action would install the net adjacent to a portion of the Fort D. A. Russell National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). The FEW Environmental Planning Function (EPF) conducted the Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed action. This EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) signed by the 90th Missile Wing (90MW) Commander on DATE. The Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for Minor Construction Projects at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming is incorporated by reference.

2. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The purpose of this action is to provide protection for nearby occupants of quarters 114, 116, 117, 118, and 120 from errant golf balls. Vegetation along the 18th fairway previously provided a natural screen separating the golf course and residential buildings. Loss of vegetation due to weather damage removed this natural protection. The need for the proposed action is to recreate a barrier between these spaces.

3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A description of the proposed action and alternative is as follows:

- a. Golf Net Option (Preferred Alternative): The preferred alternative would install a golf net to provide the necessary safety precautions. This alternative will require a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in coordination with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to mitigate the adverse effect to cultural resources. Installation of the net addresses immediate safety concerns but will be temporary until natural vegetation can be established.
- b. Vegetation Option: This alternative would replace lost vegetation with new trees and shrubs to create a natural barrier. Unlike the Preferred Alternative, this option fails to immediately address safety concerns because vegetation requires several growth seasons to become established and attain the height necessary to eliminate hazards.
- c. No Action Alternative: This alternative would take no action. This alternative would not meet mission objectives as it would not address the shortcomings of current health and safety concerns.

4. SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is required by the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR §989), the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91-190) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR §1500-1508). This EA

identifies, describes, and evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that could result from the execution of the proposed action.

FEW conducted a scoping meeting on 27 June 2017. During the scoping process the EPF determined that the proposed action has the potential to affect Safety and Occupational Health and Cultural Resources.

5. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

- a. Cultural Resources: The proposed action impacts cultural resources within the area of potential effect (APE). Specifically, the proposed action has a negative visual impact on the Fort D. A. Russell NHLD and those buildings in the APE's view shed.
- b. Biological Resources: The proposed action has the potential to impact biological resources. The proposed action would temporarily displace wildlife during installation.
- c. Auditory Impacts: The proposed action has the potential to impact noise levels. Specifically, the proposed action has the potential to create temporary noise impacts for local residents during construction.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Environmental Impact analysis includes consideration of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts.

- a. Cultural Resources. The FEW Cultural Resources Manager (CRM) determined the proposed action to be an adverse effect on the historic property and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (WYSHPO) concurred with this finding (Appendix 3). The Preferred Alternative adversely impacts the Fort D. A. Russell NHLD and five National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible buildings. Specifically, the proposed action introduces a visual element which diminishes the integrity of the NHLD and adjacent NRHP buildings as outlined in 36 CFR §800.5(a)(2)(v). A MOA will need to be negotiated with consulting parties to mitigate the adverse effect. This agreement document will be drafted in coordination with the SHPO and the National Park Service (NPS).
- b. Biological Resources. The Preferred Alternative neither adversely impacts the two threatened species on base nor their habitats; the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) and the Colorado butterfly plant (*Gaura neomexicana coloradensis*). Other wildlife species may be affected by short-term displacement during installation. However, species adapted to urban development, such as pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) would likely return after project completion. Herd management shall follow guidelines in the Pronghorn Management Plan and the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, both incorporated by reference. The pronghorns could be affected due to increased traffic during the rehabilitation process but, with appropriate management of the herd, this impact would be negligible.
- c. Auditory Impacts. The Preferred Alternative would generate temporary noise impacts during construction within a residential area. The equipment used for installation generates noise

levels up to 80 decibels (dBA). These noise levels would only have a minor impact on ambient noise levels. To minimize noise impacts, construction activities would be scheduled on normal workdays and during typical working hours. Therefore, potential noise impacts from the Preferred Alternative would be short-term and negligible.

7. PERSONS AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

The following agencies/individuals were contacted and/or provided a copy of the EA during its original preparation in order to afford an opportunity for comment on the content of the document. Agency consultations are required per 32 CFR §989.14(d).

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue
Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington DC 20001-2637

NPS Intermountain Region
National Historic Landmarks Program
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

8. REFERENCES

29 CFR §1910, Occupational Safety and Health Standards

32 CFR §989, Department of the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (EIAP)

36 CFR §800, Protection of Historic Properties

DoDI 6055.06, DoD Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Program

FEW Engineering Specification Section 01010 Environmental Protection

FEW Installation Development Plan, 2013

FEW Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan, 2016

FEW Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, YEAR

Final Programmatic EA for Minor Construction Projects, FONSI signed 7 August 2013

Final Pronghorn Management Plan,

9. LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

a. Preparers

Name	Background	Experience (years)
Travis Beckwith, NEPA Coordinator/ Cultural Resources Manager	B.A. History; M.A. History	10
Andy McKinley, Environmental Element Chief	B.S. Environmental Engineering; M.E. Civil Engineering	8
Nicole Wittig, Cultural Resource Specialist	B.A. Archaeology; M.A. History	4

b. Reviewers

Name	Agency	Title
Travis Beckwith	90 MW/CEIEC	NEPA Coordinator/Cultural Resources Manager
Kurt Warmbier	USAF, 90 MW/JA	Attorney Advisor, Environmental Law

TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF PREDICTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

	Alternative A: Install golf course net.	Alternative B: Plant vegetation.	Alternative C: No Action
Cultural Resources	Potential impact. Consultation with SHPO, NPS, and ACHP to write an agreement document to ensure impacts are avoided or mitigated.	No Impact.	No Impact. Fails to address health and safety concerns.
Biological Resources	No impact.	No Impact.	No impact.
Auditory Impacts	No Impact.	No Impact.	No Impact.

APPENDIX 1: LOCATION MAP

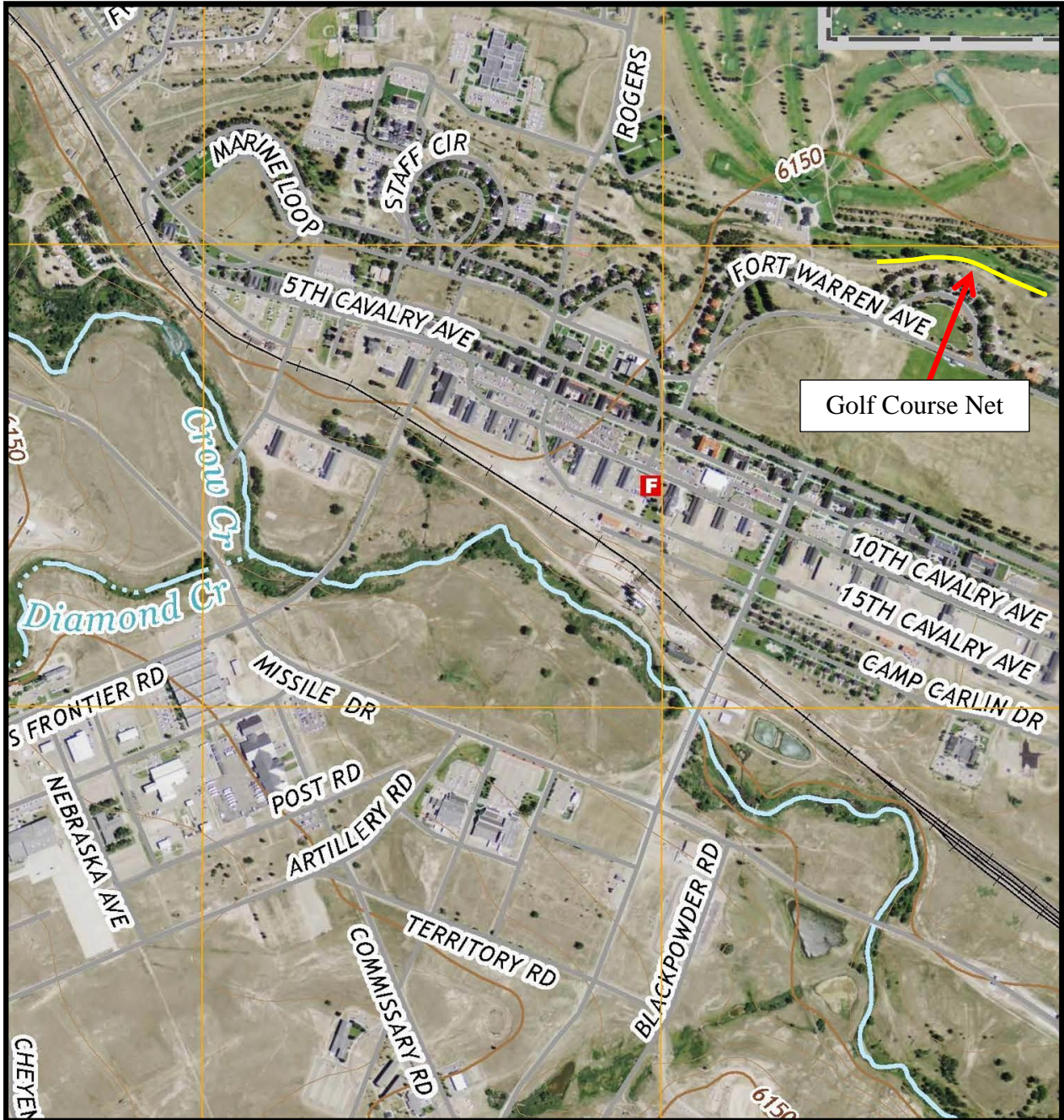


Figure 1: USGS topographic map illustrating the location of the golf course net (U. S. Geological Survey. *Cheyenne North Quadrangle, Wyoming*. 1:24,000. 7.5 minute series. Reston, Virginia: USGS 2015).

APPENDIX 2: VISUAL SIMULATION



Figure 2: Simulation of the golf course net's visual impact on the Fort D. A. Russell NHL and National Register eligible buildings 114, 116, 117, 118, and 120. (Image by Nicole Wittig).

APPENDIX 3: AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 90TH MISSILE WING (AFGSC)

Mr. Travis Beckwith
Cultural Resources Manager
300 Vesle Drive, Ste 600
F. E. Warren AFB WY 82005

28 OCT 2016

Mrs. Mary Hopkins
State Historic Preservation Office
Barrett Building, Third Floor North
2301 Central Ave
Cheyenne WY 82003

Dear Mrs. Hopkins

F. E. Warren Air Force Base (FEW) proposes to install golf course net in the Fort D. A. Russell National Historic Landmark District. The proposed net will be approximately 900 feet long and fifty feet tall. The enclosed documents illustrate the nature of the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the proposed undertaking is being submitted for your review and comment. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Travis Beckwith at (307) 773-3667.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis A. Beckwith". The signature is stylized and cursive.

TRAVIS A. BECKWITH, DAF
Cultural Resources Manager

Attachments:

1. USGS Map
2. Design Documents

cc:
90 CES/CEIE

ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Ave., Barrett Bldg. 3rd Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7697
<http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us>

Oct 31, 2016

Travis Beckwith
Cultural Resources Manager
300 Vesle Drive, Suite 600
F.E. Warren AFB, WY 82005

re: Installation of a Gold Course Net, F.E. Warren AFB (SHPO File # 1016BAB003)

Dear Mr. Beckwith:

Thank you for consulting with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the associated report and find the documentation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42). We concur with your determination that the undertaking is proposed to take place in the Fort D.A. Russell National Historic Landmark District.

We find that the Fort D.A. Russell National Historic Landmark District will be adversely impacted by the proposed project. In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6, we recommend that F.E. Warren AFB develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), specifying the terms under which the adverse effects to the historic property will be minimized or mitigated. The agency official, SHPO and the Advisory Council (should they choose to participate) are the signatories and consulting parties to the MOA. The agency official and the SHPO, in agreement with the agency official, may choose to invite additional parties to be signatories and to concur in the MOA. Invited signatories and consulting parties may include Native American tribes that attach religious or cultural significance to the historic property and any party that assumes a responsibility under the MOA.

Please refer to SHPO project #1016BAB003 on any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact me at 307-777-8594.

Sincerely,



Brian Beadles
Historic Preservation Specialist



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
90TH MISSILE WING (AFGSC)



Mr. Travis Beckwith
Cultural Resources Manager
300 Vesle Drive, Ste 600
F. E. Warren AFB WY 82005

MAR 03 2017

Mrs. Mary Hopkins
State Historic Preservation Office
Barrett Building, Third Floor North
2301 Central Ave
Cheyenne WY 82003

Dear Mrs. Hopkins

F. E. Warren Air Force Base (FEW) previously consulted with you on the installation of a Golf Course Net (SHPO File No. 1016BAB003). The proposed net is within the Fort D. A. Russell National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). The enclosed document illustrates the nature of the proposed undertaking.

The FEW Cultural Resources Manager reviewed the proposed undertaking and determined it will adversely affect historic properties. In accordance Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act we are submitting the proposed undertaking for your review and comment. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Travis Beckwith at (307) 773-3667.

Sincerely,

TRAVIS A. BECKWITH, DAF
Cultural Resources Manager

Attachment:
Visual Simulation

cc:
90 CES/CEIE

BREAKING BARRIERS...SINCE 1947



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34 (IMDE-HPP)

MAR 09 2017

Travis A. Beckwith
Cultural Resources Manager
300 Vesle Drive, Ste. 600
F.E. Warren AFB Wyoming 82005

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TAB

Dear Mr. Beckwith:

RE: D.A. Russell National Historic Landmark District- Golf Net

Thank you for your letter dated February 08, 2017, and for providing us with information regarding the proposed undertaking for constructing a golf net within the D.A. Russell National Historic Landmark District, Wyoming.

We also thank you for the invitation to participate in the consultation for this project. As stated in 36 CFR Part 800.10 (c), federal agencies are required to notify the Secretary of the Interior (delegated to the National Park Service) of any consultation involving an undertaking that could affect a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The Intermountain Regional Office of the National Park Service administers the National Historic Landmark program within an eight-state region, including Wyoming.

That same paragraph in the regulations specifies that the agency will invite the Secretary to participate in the consultation where there may be an adverse effect on the NHL. As such, the National Park Service accepts your invitation to participate as a consulting party for this project.

We look forward to consulting with your office as plans are refined and details developed. Please feel free to contact Tom Keohan at (303) 969-2897 or tom_keohan@nps.gov with information about this project.

Sincerely,

Amy Cole
Program Manager
Heritage Partnerships Program

cc:

Mary Hopkins, Wyoming SHPO, 2301 Central Ave., 3rd Floor, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

APPENDIX 4: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT