

actions which could potentially result in greater than incidental ground disturbing activities;

(2) Establishing an integrated program of scientific investigations utilizing land, resources, and facilities of the Preserve where the effects of performing the investigations within the Preserve are anticipated to be short-term and minor in scope;

(3) Livestock management actions utilizing land, resources, and facilities of the Preserve, defined in location and time, the effects of which are anticipated to be short-term and minor in scope.

(4) Forest treatments, which may include the removal of trees or managed fire, designed to establish or enhance stand characteristic trends toward or into an historic range of variability affecting a clearly defined segment of the forested land or a specified forest type within the Preserve; and

(5) Reconstruction, repair, and use of roadways and trails, and construction of minor trail segments within the Preserve which are not anticipated to significantly alter the magnitude and frequency of anticipated use.

#### 101.53 *Finding of No Significant Impact.*

(a) If, based on the information in the combined document (101.52(d)), the Responsible Official determines that the environmental consequences of the proposal will not have a significant effect on the human environment, the finding and reasons for it must be stated in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI).

(b) A FONSI is combined with the stewardship register and environmental assessment. If such a finding cannot be made, or it is otherwise desirable, the Responsible Official may cancel, modify, or postpone the proposal while additional information is made available, or issue a notice of intent that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered.

(c) The FONSI itself need not be detailed, but must succinctly state the reason for deciding that the action will have no significant environmental effects, and, if relevant, must show which factors were weighted most heavily in the determination. In addition to this statement, the FONSI must include or attach and incorporate by reference, the environmental assessment.

(d) The Responsible Official may seek public review of a FONSI before making an implementing decision. In some circumstances, the Responsible Official must make the FONSI available for public review (including state and area-wide clearinghouses) for 30 days before

the Responsible Official makes a final determination whether to prepare an environmental impact statement and before the action may begin. The circumstances are:

(1) The proposed action is, or is closely similar to, one, which normally requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement under the Trust's procedures; or

(2) The nature of the proposed action is one without precedent.

(e) The Responsible Official must use the factors of "significantly" as described in 40 CFR 1508.27 for the determination that a proposal will have no significant impact on the human environment.

#### 101.6 *Categorical Exclusions.*

The Responsible Official may undertake the following stewardship actions, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, without preparation of an environmental document:

(a) Policy development, planning and implementation which relate to routine activities, such as personnel, organizational changes, record management, internal communications, financial management, or similar administrative functions;

(b) Orders issued to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety;

(c) Location and maintenance of landline boundaries and geographic sites;

(d) Routine repair and maintenance of facilities and administrative sites including, but not limited to, buildings, fences, water systems, roads, trails, signs, and ancillary facilities associated with the administration and management of the Preserve, or the installation, routine repair and maintenance of a removable communication facility of not more than 250 square feet, the primary purpose of which is to facilitate communication associated with the administration and management of the Preserve;

(e) Use and care for horses or other stock for administrative purposes that are clearly limited in context and intensity;

(f) Repair and maintenance of recreation sites;

(g) Reconstruction or maintenance of utilities within a designated corridor;

(h) Inventories, research activities, and studies, such as resource inventories and routine data collection when such actions are clearly limited in context and intensity;

(i) Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve range conditions and/or animal distribution;

(j) Treatment of forest structure and fuel conditions for the purpose of reducing the hazard of large, stand-replacing crown fires in areas where such high severity fires are outside an historic range of variability. Projects under this category are limited to an aggregate area of no more than 640 acres in a calendar year, and may involve prescribed fire and/or the cutting of live trees, the diameter of which will be:

(1) No larger than nine inches diameter at breast height; or

(2) Determined by publicly available site-specific size class information used to define an appropriate diameter and basal area distribution of trees to be removed;

(k) Removal of brush or hazard trees near roads or buildings, where such action is necessary to protect historic structures or the health and safety of the public and/or employees, and when such action is clearly limited in context and intensity; and

(l) Permitting of seasonal or short-term backcountry recreation or special use actions that do not result in more than incidental ground disturbing activities.

#### 101.7 *Public Involvement.*

(a) Opportunities for the public to provide input and maintain a dialogue with the Trust regarding a proposed stewardship action may be triggered by a combination of notice through appropriate media, public meetings, targeted outreach, agency consultation, scoping, and public review of relevant documents.

(b) In the preparation of a stewardship register, the Trust will identify the appropriate stages during the process leading up to a decision, and if the decision is to go forward with an action, the implementation of that decision, where specific forms of public review and input will be most useful and informative to the Responsible Official.

(1) For stewardship actions involving natural and cultural resources on the Preserve, the Responsible Official will notify the public that the stewardship action is being proposed, and that a stewardship register is available for review.

(2) The Trust will take into account public input received at this stage of the proposal to help determine the appropriate goals, objectives, and performance requirements that will guide further development of the proposed stewardship action.

(c) The public's reaction to a proposed stewardship action will be critical in planning for the appropriate level of public involvement throughout the rest of the NEPA process. The public's reaction will also help determine the