

**FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**RURAL INITIATIVE  
NATIONAL CEMETERY**

**TWIN FALLS AREA  
NATIONAL CEMETERY  
EAST ELM STREET  
BUHL, IDAHO**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

**ABSTRACT:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), developed the VA's National Veteran's Cemetery Rural Initiative to provide burial access for Veterans not currently served by a burial option at either a VA National Cemetery or a VA-funded State Cemetery. Other Rural Initiative cemeteries will include Maine, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming,

Buhl, Idaho, 15 miles west of Twin Falls, Idaho, was selected for the Idaho location. The VA acquired 8.2 acres of land for the new cemetery, approximately one mile east of Buhl, Idaho. The nearest State Veterans Cemetery is in Boise, Idaho, 120 miles away. The Utah State Veterans Cemetery is south of Salt Lake City, Utah, 200 miles away. The nearest National Veteran's Cemetery is Willamette National Veteran's Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, 450 miles away.

The proposed action is to construct a veterans' cemetery containing 540 preplaced burial vaults, 250 in-ground cremations remain burial sites, 40 private burial vault sites, a Columbarium wall for 250 cremations remain niches, memorial wall for memorial inscriptions, a formal entrance and roadway system, walkways, irrigation, committal shelter, electronic gravesite locator, and a flagpole area.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to consider the effect of their actions on human health and the environment. The requirements of VA's NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects (VA 2010) were followed to complete this Environmental Assessment. Both an Environmental Site Assessment and a Cultural Resource Survey have been completed with no adverse effects identified related to the cemetery location.

The construction of the cemetery on the 8.2-acre parcel would have no significant effect on human health or the environment.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Background**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, developed the VA's National Veteran's Cemetery Rural Initiative to provide burial access for veterans not currently served by a burial option at either a VA National Cemetery or a VA-funded State Veteran's Cemetery. The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is in Boise, Idaho, 120 miles away. The Utah State Veterans Cemetery is south of Salt Lake City, Utah, 200 miles away. The nearest National Veteran's Cemetery is Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, 450 miles away.

Buhl, Idaho, 15 miles west of Twin Falls, Idaho, was selected for the Idaho location. The VA acquired 8.2 acres of land for the new national cemetery, approximately one mile east of Buhl, Idaho.

### **Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to construct a veteran's cemetery containing 540 preplaced burial vaults, 250 in-ground cremations remain burial sites, 40 private burial vault sites, a Columbarium wall for 250 cremations remain niches, and a memorial wall for memorial inscriptions.

The cemetery will also include a formal entrance and roadway system, walkways, irrigation, committal shelter, electronic gravesite locator, and a flagpole area.

The cemetery would be developed in phases with each phase accommodating approximately 10 years of burial space. A total buildout would provide 15 additional expansion phases of burial options.

### **Environmental Evaluation**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed to evaluate the effect of the construction of the cemetery on human health and the environment.

The VA identified, analyzed, and documented the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and economic impacts associated with constructing the Twin Falls-area National Cemetery

Considerations included: aesthetics, air quality, community services, cultural resources, cumulative impacts, environmental justice, flood plains, wetlands, and coastal zone management, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, potential for generating controversy, socioeconomics, solid and hazardous materials, transportation and parking, utilities, and wildlife and habitat.

Construction of the Twin Falls-area National Veteran's Cemetery would have no significant effect in these areas.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, developed the VA's National Cemetery Rural Initiative to provide burial access for Veterans not currently served by a burial option at either a VA National Cemetery or a VA-funded State cemetery. The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is in Boise, 120 miles away. The Utah State Veterans Cemetery is south of Salt Lake City, Utah, 200 miles away. The nearest National Cemetery is Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, 450 miles away.

#### **Location**

Buhl, Idaho, 15 miles west of Twin Falls, Idaho, was selected for the Idaho location. The National Cemetery Administration acquired 8.2 acres of land for the new national cemetery, approximately one mile east of Buhl, Idaho.

### **1.2 Purpose and Need**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is construct a cemetery to provide burial access for veterans not currently served by a burial option at either a VA National Veteran's Cemetery or a VA-funded State Veteran's Cemetery.

#### **Need**

The Twin Falls, Idaho area veterans must travel significant distances to avail themselves of burial options at a veteran's cemetery. The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is located in Boise, 120 miles away. The Utah State Veterans Cemetery is south of Salt Lake City, Utah, 200 miles away. The nearest National Cemetery is Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, 450 miles away.

With the construction of the Twin Falls-area National Cemetery, VA will be able to offer in-ground casketed or cremated remain burial space, and Columbaria Wall Niches for cremation remains for the foreseeable future.

## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES**

### **2.1 Development of Alternatives**

The VA National Cemetery Administration developed the VA's National Veteran's Cemetery Rural Initiative to provide burial access for Veterans not currently served by a burial option at either a VA National Cemetery or a VA-funded State cemetery. Other Rural Initiative cemeteries are planned to serve Veterans in Maine, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming,

The Twin Falls. Idaho area veterans must travel significant distances to avail

themselves of burial options at a veteran's cemetery. The Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is located in Boise, 120 miles away. The Utah State Veterans Cemetery is south of Salt Lake City, Utah, 200 miles away. The nearest National Cemetery is Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, 450 miles away.

The VA examined areas with underserved veteran's burial options. The VA looked at 12 locations throughout Idaho without a veteran's cemetery within a reasonable driving distance. Criteria included: proximity to open veteran's cemeteries, proper zoning, suitable size, suitable shape, major highway accessibility, available utilities, surrounding land use, topography, aesthetics, environmental concerns, and cultural and historic concerns,

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## **2.2 Alternatives Retained for Analysis**

### **Preferred Alternative**

Only one site best met the criteria for site selections. The VA acquired the 8.2-acre parcel near Buhl, Idaho for the Twin Falls-area National Cemetery

The cemetery construction would enable the VA to meet the burial needs for the Twin Falls Area veterans for the foreseeable future.

### **No-Action Alternative**

The No-Action alternative serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated. For this project, No-Action is defined as not constructing the 8.2-acre parcel in the Twin Falls-area.

The No-Action alternative would challenge NCA's goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA burial option in the area for the foreseeable future and therefore, would not meet the purpose and need for action.

Veterans and their families residing in the Twin Falls area would be underserved and require Veterans and their families to travel 120-450 miles for a veteran's cemetery with all burial options

## **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

### **Procedures**

The requirements of VA's NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects (VA 2010), are followed. The environmental consequences areas of concern listed in the VA NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects, includes 17 specific areas of concern, including: aesthetics, air quality, community services, cultural resources, cumulative impacts, environmental justice, flood plains, wetlands, and coastal zone management, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise, potential for generating controversy,

socioeconomics, solid and hazardous materials, transportation and parking, utilities, and wildlife and habitat. These were all evaluated. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office was also completed.

The decision for this proposed federal undertaking identifies the actions to which VA would commit to minimize environmental effects, as required under NEPA, its implementing regulations from CEQ (40 CFR 1500-1508) and VA (38 CFR Part 26), and VA's NEPA guidance (VA 2010).

### **3.1 Aesthetics**

Aesthetics refers to the visual resources including natural and man-made features that give property its aesthetic properties.

#### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

#### **Environmental Effects**

##### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, after completion, other than a flagpole, a committal shelter, a Columbarium wall, a memorial wall, a gravesite locator kiosk, and roadways, less than 5% of the property, all land will remain open. All gravesite areas will be turfed, landscaped, and irrigated.

##### **No-Action Alternative**

Under the No-Action Alternative, no visual changes would occur, and there would be no impact to aesthetics.

### **3.2 Air Quality**

Air quality refers to the concentration of air contaminants in a specific location. Air quality is determined by the type and amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of the air basin, and the prevailing meteorological conditions. Impacts refer to changes in the air quality related to conditions caused by an action.

#### **Existing Environment**

Twin Falls County is currently listed as an attainment area for air quality by the United States Environment Protection Agency.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, any limited impact would be mitigated by annual emissions testing of all equipment and industry practices for dust control.

### **No-Action Alternative**

Under the No-Action Alternative there will be no impacts on air quality.

## **3.3 Community Services**

Community services refer to services provided by surrounding communities such as police, fire, and ambulance services, schools, health care, and parks and recreation.

### **Existing Environment**

The city of Buhl, Idaho currently provides the area with police protection, fire protection, and emergency services.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no additional services are expected to be needed beyond what is currently provided.

### **No-Action Alternative**

Under the No-Action alternative, there will be no additional impacts on community services. Existing services would continue to be provided.

## **3.4 Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources include both historic and prehistoric archaeological resources, as well as historic structures. This impact analysis focuses on sites and structures listed in, or eligible for nomination to, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) for implementing Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*.

### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is an 8.2-acre parcel of level irrigated former cropland.

The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

A Cultural Resource Impact Study was completed in July 2016. It evaluated cultural, historic, and archaeological aspects of the property. Based on the background research and a reconnaissance survey, no significant cultural resources were identified.

## **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106**

### **Existing Environment**

The National Historic Preservation Act protects historic cultural sites. Section 106, Criteria for Adverse Effect (36 CFR 800.5), defines an undertaking (action) as having an adverse effect on historic properties if the undertaking would alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics that qualify a property for inclusion in the NRHP in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. The analysis considers potential effects to cultural resources located in and within view of the project area.

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, a Cultural Resource Impact Study was completed in July 2016. It evaluated cultural, historic, and archaeological aspects of the property. Based on the background research and a reconnaissance survey, no significant cultural resources were identified, and no adverse effect would occur.

A letter to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, State Historic Preservation Officer, has requested concurrence with the finding of no adverse effect.

### **No-Action Alternative**

Under the no-action alternative, no construction activity would occur, and there would be no impact to cultural resources.

## **3.5 Cumulative Impacts**

The Federal Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA define cumulative effects 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” (40 CFR 1508.7).

This Environmental Assessment considers past, present, and reasonable foreseeable short-term and long-term future effects from implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and other projects that coincide with the location and timetable of the Proposed Action Alternative.

## **Findings**

There are no known projects and activities near the property to be acquired.

## **3.6 Environmental Justice**

Environmental justice refers to fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people

with respect to development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It often relates to locating projects in lower socioeconomic areas that might adversely affect the health of local residents.

### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, acquisition of the property would allow a national cemetery to be built and after completion, other than a flagpole, a committal shelter, a Columbarium wall, a memorial wall, a gravesite locator kiosk, and roadways, less than 5% of the property, all land will remain open. All gravesite areas will be sodded, landscaped, and irrigated.

This will have a positive economic effect as the cemetery will need to be staffed to maintain the required appearance standards that NCA maintains for all national cemeteries.

#### **No-Action Alternative**

Under the No-Action alternative, there would be a challenge for NCA's goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA burial option in the area for the foreseeable future and therefore, would not meet the purpose and need for action.

## **3.7 Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management Areas**

### **Existing Environment**

Twin Falls-area National Cemetery is in a high desert area. Rainfall is less than 10 inches per year.

The Proposed Action is not within any flood hazard zone mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The site is generally flat with minimal slope.

No wetland areas were identified at the site.

Twin Falls County is not located in the Idaho Coastal Zone Management Area.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### **Proposed Action Alternative**

The cemetery construction will have no impact to wetlands.

### **No-Action Alternative**

Under No Action, cemetery construction would not occur and no impacts to floodplains, wetlands, and coastal zone management areas could occur.

## **3.8 Geology and Soils**

Geology and soils refers to the potential for loss of soils and changes in geological conditions due to rock excavation, soil erosion and compaction, soil horizon removal, grading, and cutting and filling operations.

### **Existing Environment**

The proposed parcel is located in the Central Till Plain Region of Idaho. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Cooperative Soil Survey, identified one soil type for the whole site, Calvary Loamy Fine Sand (CaL, 1-3 percent slopes) which is well-drained.

The Twin Falls-area Cemetery is in seismic zone 1, indicating some earthquakes have occurred and are expected, but little or no damage should result.

The site is generally flat with minimal slope.

### **Environmental Effects**

#### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, soil characteristics in the proposed project area would not preclude cemetery use.

#### **No-Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, cemetery construction would not occur and no impacts to geology and soils would result.

## **3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality**

Hydrology and Water Quality refers to the effect of the action on surface water and groundwater.

### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west. No surface waters are present.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

No surface waters would be impacted by cemetery construction and operations. No negative impacts to groundwater or water quality are anticipated. The master plan calls for a combination stormwater and irrigation pond.

### **No Action Alternative**

Under No Action Alternative, cemetery construction would not occur and no impacts to hydrology and water quality would result.

## **3.10 Land Use**

Land Use refers to the impact of the project on existing land use and changes in land use.

It includes the potential of the project to effect land on tax rolls, changes in land values, encroachment on critical areas, changes in boundaries, rights-of-way, and easements.

## **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

The proposed action is to construct a veterans' cemetery containing 540 preplaced burial vaults, 250 in-ground cremation remains burial sites, 40 private burial vault sites, a Columbarium wall for 250 cremations remain niches, and a memorial wall for memorial inscriptions.

The cemetery will also include a formal entrance and roadway system, walkways, irrigation, committal shelter, electronic gravesite locator, and a flagpole area.

The cemetery would be developed in phases with each phase accommodating approximately 10 years of burial space. A total buildout would provide 15 additional expansion phases of burial options.

A USDA Farmland Conversion Form AD1006 from the Farmland Protection Policy Act is being completed.

There would be minimal effect on tax rolls or land values.

## **No-Action Alternative**

Under the No-Action alternative would challenge NCA's goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA burial option in the area for the foreseeable future and therefore, would not meet the purpose and need for action.

Veterans and their families residing in the Twin Falls area would be underserved and require Veterans and their families to travel 120-450 miles for a veteran's cemetery with all burial options

### **3.11 Noise**

#### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

The principal sources of noise in the area include traffic and on the parcel land periodic maintenance activities. The overall noise levels are typical of a quiet area and are consistent with a cemetery setting.

#### **Environmental Effects**

The principal sources of noise in the area include traffic and on the parcel land periodic maintenance activities. The overall noise levels are typical of a quiet area and are consistent with a cemetery setting

#### **Proposed Action Alternative**

The Proposed Action, parcel acquisition, would not result in minor, intermittent, or long-term adverse noise impacts. Sources of operational-related noise include ceremonial rifle salutes and grounds maintenance equipment (including mowers, leaf blowers, and small vehicles) would continue as in the past.

Construction activities would take place during daylight hours.

## **No-Action Alternative**

Under No Action Alternative, no construction would occur leaving the parcel as open irrigated cropland.

### **3.12 Potential for Generating Substantial Controversy (Community Concerns)**

#### **Existing Conditions**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland.

The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no controversy is expected as this is a property acquisition, and is adjacent to an existing cemetery approximately three times as large as the VA cemetery would be. VA would construct a veterans' cemetery containing 540 preplaced burial vaults, 250 in-ground cremation remains burial sites, 40 private burial vault sites, a Columbarium wall for 250 cremations remain niches, and a memorial wall for memorial inscriptions.

The cemetery will also include a formal entrance and roadway system, walkways, irrigation, committal shelter, electronic gravesite locator, and a flagpole area.

The cemetery would be developed in phases with each phase accommodating approximately 10 years of burial space. A total buildout would provide 15 additional expansion phases of burial options.

It is unlikely to generate substantial controversy.

### **No-Action Alternative**

Under No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur, leaving the parcel as open irrigated cropland and no potential for controversy.

## **3.13 Socioeconomic**

Socioeconomic refers to the effect the Proposed Action would have on staffing, altering the demographic nature of the area, and changes in the neighborhood characteristics. Economic Activity includes the effect that the project would have on local wages, employment, and local purchases of goods and services.

### **Existing Conditions**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

The area surrounding the parcel acquisition contains residential and agricultural land uses.

## **Environmental Consequences**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Alternative, acquisition of the property would allow NCA to construct a veterans' cemetery containing 540 preplaced burial vaults, 250 in-ground cremation remains burial sites, 40 private burial vault sites, a Columbarium wall for 250 cremation remains niches, and a memorial wall for memorial inscriptions.

The cemetery will also include a formal entrance and roadway system, walkways, irrigation, committal shelter, electronic gravesite locator, and a flagpole area.

The cemetery would be developed in phases with each phase accommodating approximately 10 years of burial space. A total buildout would provide 15 additional expansion phases of burial options.

This construction will be associated with positive economic activity.

### **No-Action-Alternative**

Under No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur leaving the parcel as open irrigated cropland.

### **3.14 Solid and Hazardous Materials**

The Solid and Hazardous Materials category refers to changes in the proper management of solid waste and hazardous materials in compliance with local, state, and Federal regulations

### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

The area surrounding the parcel contains residential and agricultural land uses.

The land parcel does not currently generate solid or hazardous materials. There is no documented occurrence of contamination or underground storage tanks on the property or immediately adjacent to it.

### **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, construction related activities would generate small amounts of solid waste. Solid waste generation from these activities is anticipated to be minor. Proper vehicle maintenance and inspection would be utilized. No adverse impacts are not expected.

### **No-Action Alternative**

Under No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur leaving the parcel as open irrigated cropland and no impacts to solid waste and hazardous materials would result.

### **3.15 Transportation and Parking**

#### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

The area surrounding the parcel contains residential and agricultural land uses.

#### **Environmental Effects**

##### **Proposed Action Alternative**

No significant additional traffic or parking would occur.

##### **No-Action Alternative**

Under No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur leaving the parcel as open irrigated cropland and no impacts to transportation and parking would result.

### **3.16 Utilities**

#### **Existing Environment**

The proposed parcel to be acquired is an undeveloped area with no current utilities.

#### **Environmental Effects**

##### **Proposed Action Alternative**

The Proposed Action would incorporate the parcel into the city master plan. When developed, it will be connected to the city water and sewer systems. Connection to city electric and information technology service may also be necessary.

Utility usage would be minimal.

##### **No-Action Alternative**

Under No-Action Alternative, no construction would occur leaving the parcel as open irrigated cropland and no impacts to utilities would result.

### **3.17 Wildlife and Habitat**

#### **Existing Environment**

The existing property is open, irrigated cropland. The Buhl West End Cemetery is to the north, open irrigated farmland is to the east and south, and a private residence is to the west.

The area surrounding the parcel acquisition contains residential and agricultural land uses.

There are no federal wilderness areas, wildlife refuges, or designated critical habitat within the vicinity of the project area.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **Proposed Action Alternative**

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, none of the listed endangered species are likely to be found at this location. Contractor personnel will be made aware of the potential endangered species so they may notify cemetery personnel of any of their presence.

### **No Action**

Under No Action, cemetery construction would not occur and no impacts to wildlife and habitat would result.

## **4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Under the VA's NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects (VA 2010), public involvement for an EA may include public engagement during scoping, and drafting, and finalizing the EA through publications of notices or public meetings.

The public involvement process consisted of the publication of a Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment(EA) and providing a copy of it at the Buhl Public Library.

### **Public Review of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)**

The VA's NEPA guidance states that the EA process must include at least a 30-day public comment period on the Draft EA, which starts with the publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA). The NOA for this Draft EA was published in the Twin Falls Times News on October 15. The Draft EA was available at the Buhl Public Library, as well as the VA website, <https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/docs/EA>. No comments were received.

### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

The VA's NEPA guidance states that the EA process finalizes with the publication of a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The FONSI will be published in the Twin Falls Times News. The Final EA will be available at the Buhl Public Library, as well as the VA website, <https://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/docs/EA>.

## **5.0 MITIGATION**

No mitigation is required.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The proposed construction of the Twin Falls-area National Veteran's Cemetery has followed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Interim NEPA Guidance for Projects, PG- 18-17. No significant impact to human health or the environment would occur as a result of constructing the veterans' cemetery.

A Cultural Resource study was completed with contact with the Idaho Historic Preservation Office with no cultural resources identified.

A site inspection was completed with no environmental concerns identified. A regulatory check of federal, state, and local records did not identify any environmental concerns.

## **7.0 PREPARERS**

### **US Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration**

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## **8.0 POTENTIAL STAKE HOLDERS**

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## **9.0 APPENDICES**

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## **APPENDIX A    NATIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT**

### **Tribal Coordination**

During development and review of the EA for construction of the Twin Falls-area National Cemetery, NCA contacted Native American Tribes that might have had historical presence related to this location. The Table below lists Tribal coordination conducted to date in support of this EA. A letter was sent to the Tribes informing them that a new veteran's cemetery was to be constructed in Buhl, Idaho.

Austin Greene  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon  
PO Box C  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

Darwin St. Clair  
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming  
PO Box 538  
Washakie, WY 82514

Blaine Edmo  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall Reservation  
PO Box 306  
Fort Hall, ID 83203

## **APPENDIX B**

## **AGENCY CONTACTS**

During development and review of the EA for construction of the Twin Falls-area National Cemetery, NCA contacted federal state, and local agencies with oversight responsibilities related to this project

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office  
210 West Main Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Idaho Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Shawn Nield, State Soil Scientist  
9173 West Barnes Drives, Suite C  
Boise, Idaho 83709

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office  
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368  
210 West Main Street  
Boise, Idaho 83709

Buhl City Hall  
203 Broadway Avenue North  
Buhl, Idaho 83316

## **APPENDIX C**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS**

A USDA Farmland Conversion Form AD1006 from the Farmland Protection Policy Act is being completed.

## **APPENDIX D                      PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photograph 1 – Map of Idaho

Photograph 2 – Map of Twin Falls, Idaho

Photograph 3 – Map of Buhl, Idaho

Photograph 4 – Satellite photo of land parcel

Photograph 5 – Satellite photo land parcel

**APPENDIX E**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DATA REPORTS (NETR)**

## APPENDIX F                      REFERENCES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual*. Technical Report Y-87-1 (1987), US Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region Version 2.0*. United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center. Vicksburg, MS. August 2010.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA, NRCS). Web Soil Survey Geographic Database. Washington, DC.  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/homepage.htm>, access in June 2018.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA GeoPlatform, flood plain maps. <http://fema.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>. Accessed May 2018.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service USFWS. Endangered species: Species search.. Accessed June 2018: <https://www.fws.gov/angered/>,  
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-by-current-range-county?fips=48141>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Interim NEPA Guidance for Projects, PG- 18-17 (Rev.) September 30, 2010.

**APPENDIX G**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY**

**APPENDIX H**

**ASTM PHASE 1  
ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT**