

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CEMETERY CONSTRUCTION
TWIN FALLS NATIONAL CEMETERY
BUHL, IDAHO**

Background

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,

Proposed Action

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.

Actions Completed

Pursuant to Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared.

Conclusions

The Draft EA identifies, analyzes and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and economic impacts associated with the VA's Proposed Action. The Draft EA also evaluates the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Action. The proposed action and the no action alternative are considered. The construction of the cemetery on the 8.2-acre parcel would have no significant effect on human health or the environment.

Draft Environmental Assessment Location

The public is advised that it has 30 days to respond from the date of this publication with comments. The public comment period will end on October 14, 2018. Hard copies of the Draft EA are available for public review at Buhl Public Library, 215 Broadway Ave N, Buhl, Idaho 83316 and the VA website: www.cem.va.gov/ea.asp
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