ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

JULY 2022

MINGO CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CENTER
DORMITORY CONSTRUCTION
PUXICO, MISSOURI

Prepared for:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Job Corps

Division of Facilities and Asset Management

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABA	Architectural Barriers Act
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effects
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics
CD	Candidate
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH4	Methane
CMU	Concrete Masonry Unit
CO	Carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
Db	Decibel
DOL	Department of Labor
EA	Environmental Assessment
EO	Executive Order
ESC	Engineering Support Contractor
FE	Federally Endangered
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FT	Federally Threatened
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GPD	Gallons per day
GPM	Gallons per minute
GSF	Gross square feet
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
IPaC	Information, Planning, and Conservation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoDOT	Missouri Department of Transportation
N2O	Nitrous Oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NCADAC	National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NETR	Nationwide Environmental Title Research
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) administers the Job Corps, a national residential training and employment program, that helps young people improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. In support of this mission, DOL oversees residential training campuses nationwide and is responsible for facilities and asset management at the Centers, to include construction as well as operations and maintenance.

As required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an environmental assessment (EA) must be prepared, detailing an evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative on the natural and built environment.

Under the No Action Alternative, no new construction would occur and existing facilities would continue to be used.

The Proposed Action Alternative is to demolish a vacant dormitory, construct a new 13,736gross square feet (GSF), 68-bed I-Type Prototype dormitory, and install associated utilities. The purpose of the Proposed Action Alternative is to improve operations and enhance the student experience with the construction of the new dormitory at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center.

Table 1 summarizes the evaluation of impacts to resources as a result of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives. The evaluation performed for this EA shows that no significant impacts would be expected from the Proposed Action Alternative.

Table 1. Summary of Impact Analysis for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center

Impact Topic (Alphabetical)	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Air Quality	No impact	No impact
Biological and Physical Resources		
Ecologically Critical Areas or Other Unique Natural Resources	No impact	No impact
Floodplains and Floodways	Resource not present	Resource not present
Prime and Unique Agricultural Land	No impact	No impact
Soils and Geology	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Surface Water (Streams, Ponds, etc.) and Hydrology	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats	No impact	No impact
Vegetation	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Wetlands	No impact	No impact
Wildlife	No impact	Little to no measurable impact

Table 1. Summary of Impact Analysis for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center

Impact Topic (Alphabetical)	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Climate Change	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Cultural Resources		
Archeological Resources	Resource not present	Resource not present
Historic Buildings	Resource not present	Resource not present
Historic Properties of Religious or Cultural Significance to Native American Tribes	Resource not present	Resource not present
Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Hazardous and Toxic Substances	No impact	No impact
Land Use	No impact	No impact
Noise	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Socioeconomics		
Economic Development	No impact	Beneficial impact
Population Demographics	No impact	No impact
Housing	No impact	No impact
Community Services	No impact	No impact
Environmental Justice	No impact	No impact
Indian Trust Resources	Resource not present	Resource not present
Protection of Children	No impact	No impact
Transportation	No impact	Little to no measurable impact
Utilities	No impact	Little to no measurable impact

1.1 Conclusions

Based on the analysis discussed in Section 5 of this EA, the Proposed Action Alternative would have no significant impact on the existing natural or built environment. This EA supports a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action Alternative. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Job Corps is a national residential training and employment program administered by DOL. The Job Corps was created during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 as part of Johnson's War on Poverty and Great Society initiatives that sought to expand economic and social opportunities for Americans, especially minorities and the poor. The Job Corps was modeled on the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, which provided room, board, and employment to thousands of unemployed people. The Job Corps was originally established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964; authorization for the program continued under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, then Title IV-B of the Job Training Partnership Act; and is currently provided for under Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act, 1998.

The Job Corps' mission is to attract eligible young adults, teach them the skills they need to become employable and independent, and develop careers or prepare them for further education. The Job Corps addresses multiple barriers to employment faced by disadvantaged youth throughout the United States.

In support of this mission, DOL oversees residential training campuses nationwide. The agency is responsible for facilities and asset management at the Centers, to include construction as well as operations and maintenance. As part of this mission, DOL proposes to demolish a vacant dormitory and construct a new 13,736 GSF, 68-bed I-Type Prototype dormitory and install associated utilities at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center.

This EA was conducted in accordance with NEPA of 1969 (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.) and the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500 to 1508) as last amended in July 2005.

The purpose and need for the Proposed Action Alternative is defined in Section 3. A description of the project and overview of the alternatives is provided in Section 4. Section 5 describes the affected environment and consequences of the alternatives. Findings and conclusions are reported in Section 6.

3.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

3.1 Project Location

The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center is located on 87 acres at the southeast part of the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, Puxico, Stoddard County, in southeast Missouri. The Center is located at the entrance to the Mingo Wildlife Refuge and is surrounded by forest to the west, south, and north, and farmland to the east (DOL 2020a). The campus is accessed from Spillway Road, which runs off Missouri State Highway T to the central parking area and the checkpoint in Administration Building 263, which has a mailing address of 4253 State Highway T, Puxico, MO 63960. The Center is located approximately 2.6 miles west/southwest of Puxico, Missouri (Figures 1 and 2). The project area is located at approximately 36°56' north latitude and 90° 22' west longitude. Elevation of the site is approximately 390 feet above mean sea level.

3.2 Background

The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center has approximately 139,705 GSF in 21 buildings in addition to 26 structures (Figure 3). The Center is situated on a hill that rises above the adjacent Mingo Wildlife Refuge lowlands that contain several lakes and ponds. Waste water lagoons are located approximately 200 feet to the west from the Center core. Facilities such as the dining hall, warehouse, and hard vocations that require frequent truck access are located on the lower, flat portion of the site. Housing and academic education facilities are located higher up on the hill. A group of dormitories, education, and recreation buildings are grouped together on the hilly intermediate site. The wellness center, domestic water storage tank, and vacant staff houses are located at the highest elevation on campus, deep into the forest. Concrete stairs and sidewalks are provided for pedestrian circulation between the lower and middle elevations. The service area between vocational buildings is mostly paved with asphalt. The roads and parking spaces are generally in good condition. The site is nicely landscaped and maintained well (DOL 2020a).

3.2.1 Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

Settlers first came to the area because of the vast cypress and tupelo forests in the swamplands. The giant cypress trees were the first to be used for railroad ties and building lumber. The lumber industry reached peak production in the area between 1900 and 1910. However, by 1935, most of the large operations had ceased (State Parks 2021).

The State Legislature passed an act that allowed the formation of drainage districts, financed by long-term bonds. In 1914, more than 20 drainage districts existed in Stoddard County (State Parks 2021). One of them was the Mingo Drainage District, a small district in the Advance Lowlands near Puxico. More than $1 million was spent to make Mingo Swamp suitable for farming. During the Great Depression, land values plummeted and many land-holding companies defaulted on payment of taxes rather than continue to maintain unprofitable investments in the land (State Parks 2021).

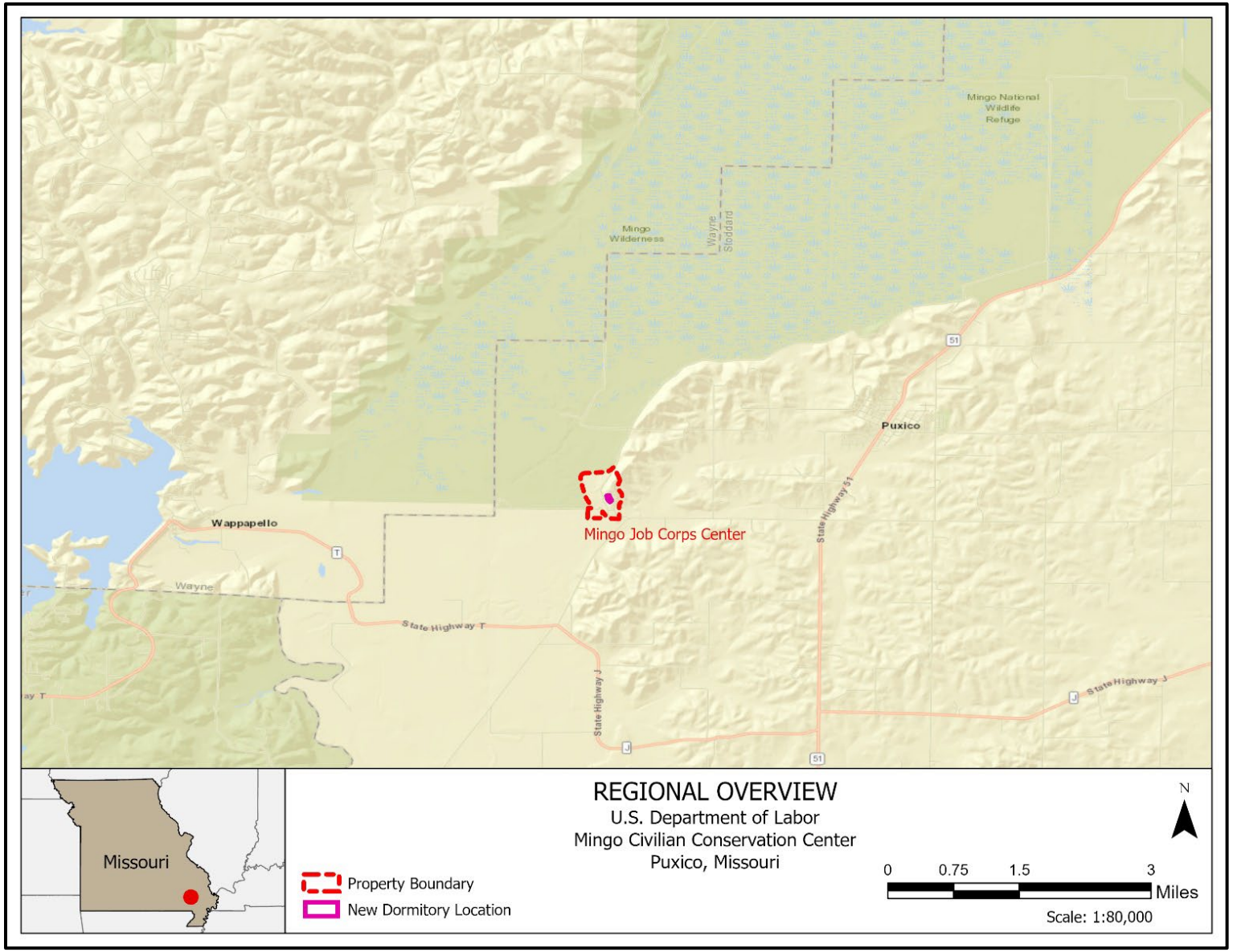

Figure 1. Regional Overview

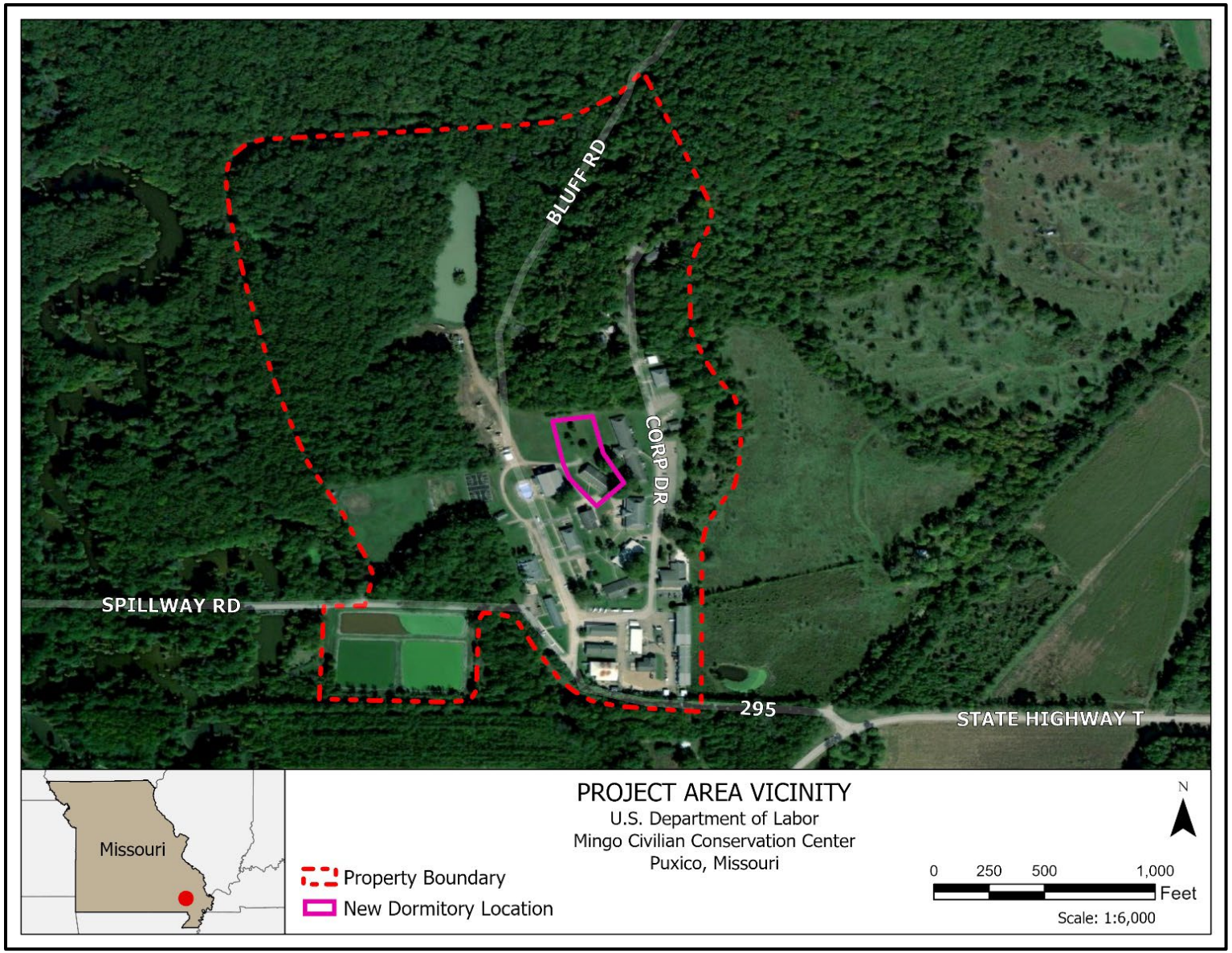

Figure 2. Project Area Vicinity

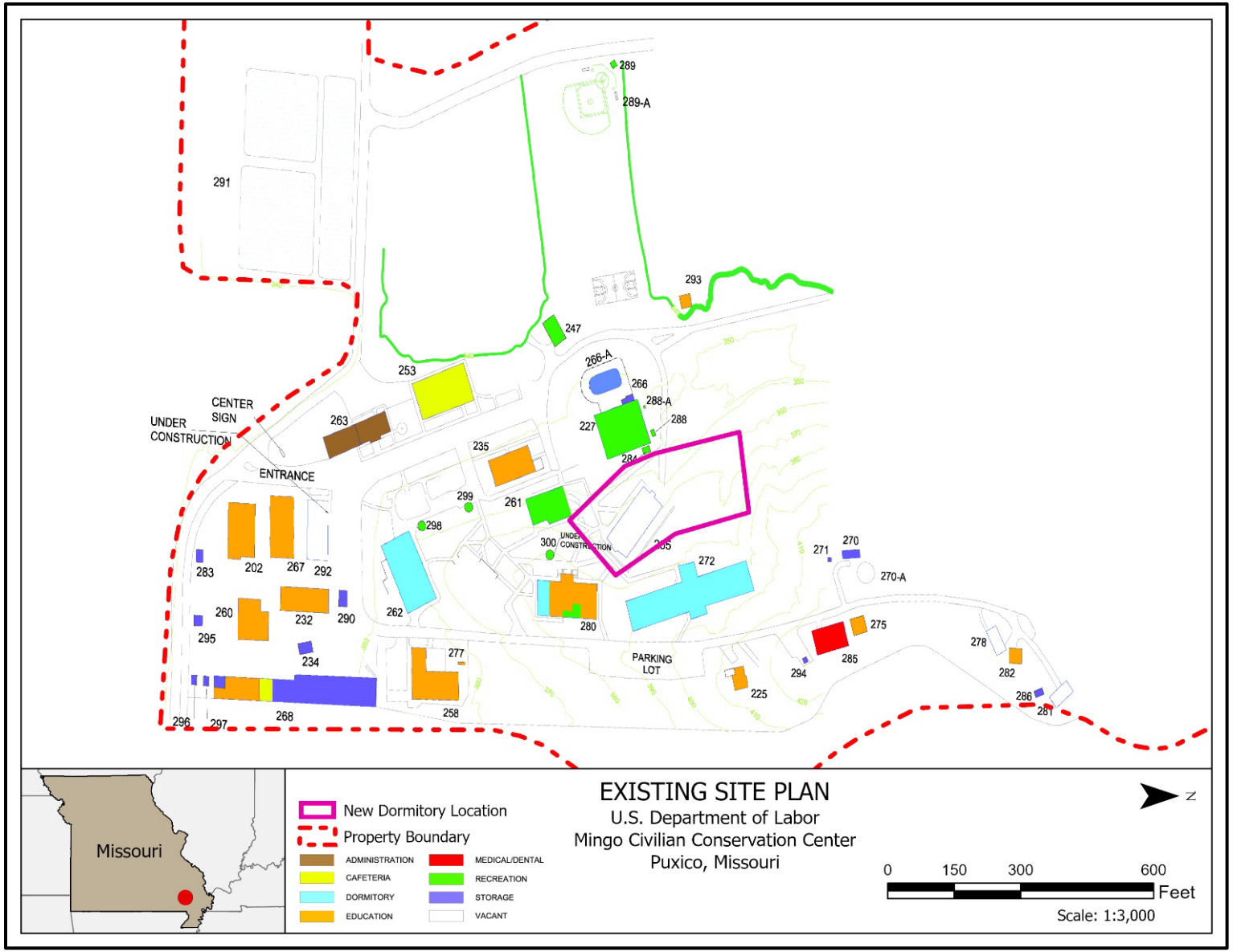

Figure 3. Existing Site Plan (North is to the Right)

The remaining timber was cut by anyone without regard to ownership. The area was open range country. Cattle and hogs ran over the entire swamp. To maintain it in a grassy condition, the land was burned, often several times a year (State Parks 2021). Bankruptcy of the Mingo Drainage District in the 1930s set the stage for Federal acquisition and subsequent restoration of the swamp and its productivity (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2008). Historically, the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge area was a haven for wildlife before logging, drainage districts, and conversion to agriculture altered the area.

The Mingo National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1945 under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as a resting and wintering area for migratory waterfowl and preservation of bottomland hardwood forest (USFWS 2008; U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 2020). The Refuge contains 21,592 acres and is situated in a linear basin formed in an abandoned channel of the Mississippi River. It is predominantly a bottomland hardwood swamp bordered on the west by the foothills of the Ozark Uplift and on the east by a terrace called Crowley's Ridge (USFWS 2008). Peak waterfowl populations of 125,000 mallards and 75,000 Canada geese have been recorded (USFWS 2008; USFS 2020). Bald eagles have been successfully nesting on the Refuge since 1985 following a reintroduction program (USFS 2020). The refuge contains approximately 15,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods, 1,000 acres of upland hardwoods, 1,275 acres of cropland and moist soil units, 700 acres of grasslands, and 5,000 acres of marsh and water. Seven natural areas occur on the refuge and over 140 archaeological sites have been identified (USFS 2020).

3.2.2 Mingo Civilian Conservation Center

Mingo Civilian Conservation Center was activated in 1965 (DOL 2020a). Between 1965 and 2004, Mingo Civilian Conservation Center was part of the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge under the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2004, a transfer was proposed between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture for the administration and operations of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center. However, the Center could not be transferred because the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 stipulated that refuge land cannot be transferred without an act of Congress (U.S. House of Representatives 2004). Subsequently, an expedited process was defined through a Memorandum of Agreement between the two agencies and the transfer of jurisdiction of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center to the Secretary of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service) was approved in 2004 (U.S. Congress 2004). At present, the land and buildings are owned and managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA Forest Service). The United States Department of Labor (DOL) is responsible for the custody and control of all existing and future buildings and structures and the associated physical plant at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center through an interagency agreement dated March 10, 2008 (DOL 2020a).

The Center contains 21 buildings, which were built within a span of more than 50 years. The two buildings from the initial Civilian Conservation Center activation (Gymnasium Building 227 and the Fire Training Program Building 232) were constructed in 1967. Five buildings were built in the 1970s, six buildings constructed in the 1980s, and two buildings built in the 1990s (DOL 2020a). Four buildings were constructed in 2000 and another building was constructed in 2016. The older buildings are a combination of wood framed buildings with wood siding and asphalt

shingle roofs on wood trusses, or steel framed buildings with metal siding and sloped metal roofs on rigid steel frames. The majority of the newer buildings are masonry construction with punched windows and sloped asphalt shingle or metal roofs. Almost all 21 buildings are in good condition, with the exception of three vacant buildings which are in fair or poor conditions (DOL 2020a).

The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center is owned and operated under contract with DOL by USDA Forest Service to provide residential living, academic education, recreation, and vocational training for a contract strength population of 144, consisting of 120 men and 24 women (DOL 2020a). The Center provides career technical training in several vocational trades including the following:

- Bricklayer
- Carpentry
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Office Administration
- Painting
- Welding

Each training program prepares students to earn an industry-recognized certification through a state agency or national accrediting body. As an accredited institution, the Civilian Conservation Center also provides academic training, including basic reading and math, with the opportunity to earn a General Educational Development credential or high school diploma. Courses in independent living, employability skills, and social skills are offered to help students transition into the workplace.

All students must complete the application and recommendation process for his or her career training program as well as other Center requirements. All students must maintain satisfactory attendance and progress requirements.

3.3 Project Purpose

The purpose of the Proposed Action Alternative is to is to improve operations and enhance the student experience by demolishing a vacant dormitory and constructing a new 13,736 GSF, 68-bed I-Type Prototype dormitory and installing associated utilities.

3.4 Project Need

Building 255, which is the former Men's Dormitory and would be demolished under the Proposed Action Alternative, was built in 1974 and is a pole and beam building consisting of two open wings with 25 beds each. The proposed project is needed because there is no privacy for students, interiors are deteriorated, and the exterior envelope is progressively deteriorating (DOL 2020a). Currently, Building 255 is vacant due to a reduction in student population. The demolition of vacant Building 255 and construction of a new 68-bed I-Type Prototype dormitory is an approved National Project (DOL 2020a) and meets the mission of DOL.

4.0 ALTERNATIVES

NEPA requires federal agencies to explore a range of reasonable alternatives and analyze effects that the alternatives could have on the natural and built environment. This section describes the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives.

4.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative consists of continued use of the existing two occupied dormitories (Buildings 262 and 272) and no changes to existing conditions from new construction would occur.

4.2 Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative is to demolish a vacant dormitory (Building 255), construct a new 13,736 GSF, 68-bed dormitory (Figure 4), and install associated utilities. The proposed location of the new building is between the gymnasium (Building 227) and the current Men's Dormitory (Building 272). This would take advantage of the previously excavated site area associated with vacant Building 255 and the flatter land to the north. The placement of the new building would allow future expansion in both directions. In addition, the placement would effectively use the contour line and excavated area to minimize cut and fill to the extent possible. Existing trees and vegetation would be preserved to the extent possible.

Vacant Building 255 is a barracks type pole and beam structure built in 1974. When it was operational, it had a 50-bed capacity in two rooms with shared toilet rooms and showers, and did not provide designated study areas. Due to the reduction of onsite students, Building 255 has been unoccupied since 2013; exterior and interior conditions have deteriorated since that time.

The new dormitory design is based on a Modified I 68-bed Prototype (Figure 4), with a footprint of approximately 13,736 GSF for a capacity of 68 beds. The building would be one-story with two separate wings and a central, shared space. Each wing would have eight 4-bed rooms and one 2-bed American with Disabilities Act (ADA) room along a double loaded corridor (for a total of 34 beds per wing). All bedrooms would have dedicated restrooms. The entrance lobby, the building commons, and main mechanical and electrical rooms would be centrally located. The building structure would be load bearing concrete masonry unit (CMU) exterior walls supported by concrete footings and slab on grade. The exterior walls would be clad with brick veneer to match the existing campus architecture and finishes. The roof would be a 40-year asphalt shingle hip roof. The roof ventilation design would prevent ice damming and/or mold formation.

Utility connections from the new dormitory would be installed to the existing domestic/fire protection water loop, existing Lagoon Sewage Treatment System, municipal gas utility line, and Ozark Border Electric Cooperative primary and secondary electric service.

Construction would involve excavation, grading, demolition, and movement of heavy equipment on the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center property. Construction activities would take place during the daylight hours and the expected duration for construction is currently unknown.

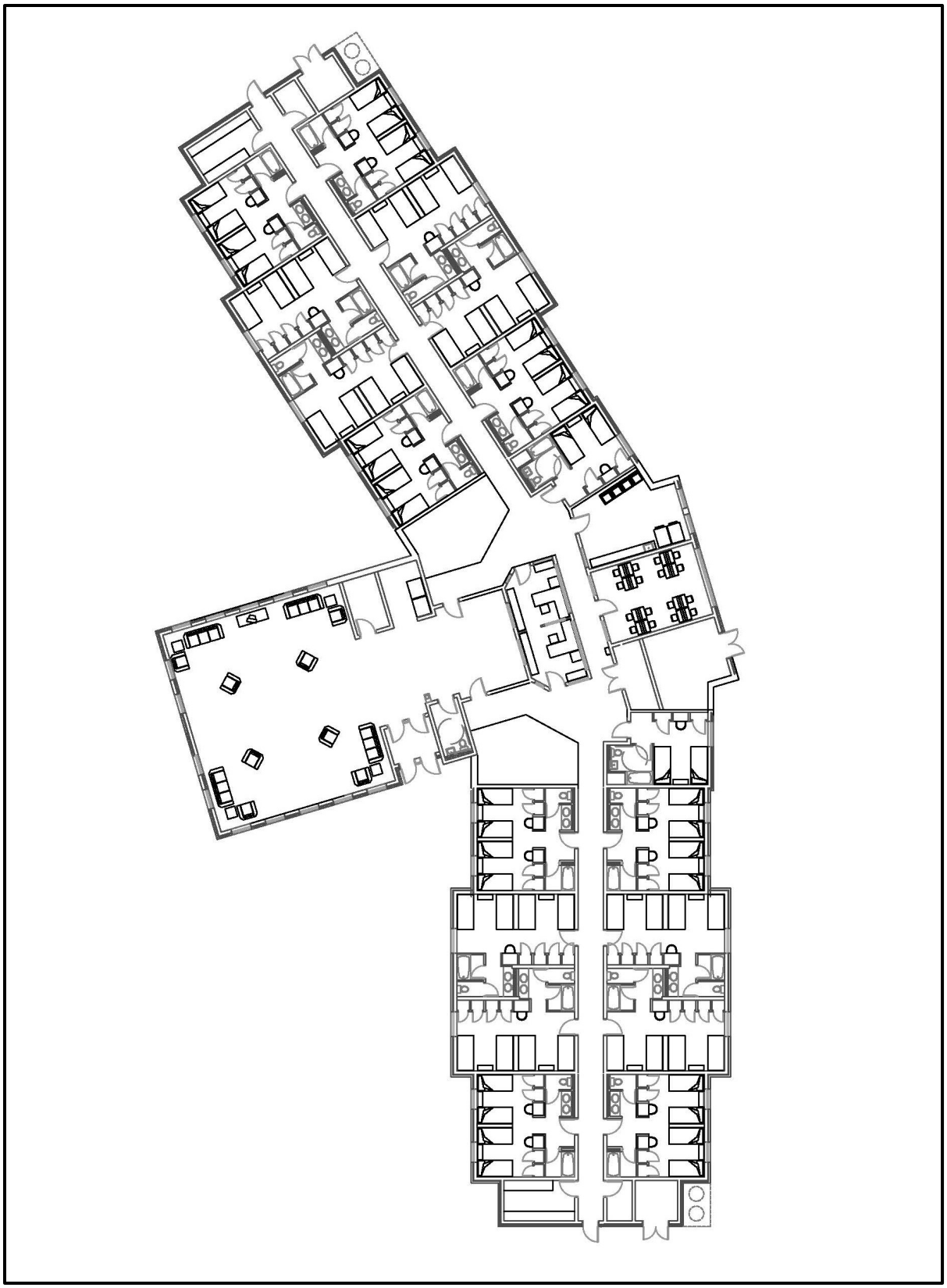

Figure 4. Proposed Action Alternative, 68-Bed I-Type Prototype Floor Plan

5.0 THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides a description of the existing environmental conditions of the geographic area that could potentially be affected by the No Action or Proposed Action Alternatives. Following each impact topic, a description of the potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative compared to the No Action Alternative is presented. The impact topics addressed are described below.

As part of this assessment, scoping letters describing the Proposed Action Alternative were submitted to various federal and state agencies to solicit comments regarding any possible impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative. Copies of the agency correspondence letters are presented in Appendix A.

Cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative, combined with impacts from past, current, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, are evaluated at the end of this section.

5.1 Impact Analysis Methods

An environmental impact is defined as a change in a resource from the existing environmental baseline conditions caused by or resulting from one of the project alternatives. Impacts may be determined to be beneficial or adverse and may apply to the full range of natural, aesthetic, cultural, and economic resources of the property and its surrounding environment. The term "significant", as defined in Section 1508.27 of the Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500), requires consideration of both the context and intensity of the impact evaluated. Significance can vary in relation to the potentially affected environment such as society (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Because of the nature of the proposed project, all impacts may be presumed to be localized unless stated otherwise. Factors contributing to the evaluation of the intensity of an impact are listed in Section 1508.27 of the CEQ's Regulations for Implementing NEPA.

The degree of potential impacts discussed in this EA are characterized as follows:

- Significant impact - the impact is severe, major, and highly disruptive to current or desired conditions.
- No significant impact - the impact is slight, but detectable (minor) or the impact is readily apparent and appreciable (moderate).
- Little to no measurable impact - the impact is not measurable at the lowest level of detection (negligible).
- No impact - a resource is present, but is not affected.
- Resource not present.

5.2 Impact Topics Analyzed

Two impact topics were assessed for potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Action Alternative. These topics include: cultural resources and socioeconomics (see Section 5.2.2). Impact topics considered but not further assessed are described in Section 5.2.1. Table 1 at the

beginning of this EA lists each of the impact topics and subtopics and the environmental impact. As noted in the following analysis, none of the potential impacts identified in this EA are significant.

5.2.1 Impact Topics Dismissed

Resources that are either not present or for which the Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable effect were dismissed from further consideration in this EA. The following provides rationale for the dismissal of these topics.

Air Quality. The Federal Clean Air Act (42 USC 7401-7671q) required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to establish a series of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for air quality pollutant levels for six criteria pollutants. Current standards for these pollutants are available on the USEPA website (https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table). Areas where ambient concentrations of a given pollutant are below the applicable ambient standards are designated as being in "attainment" for that pollutant. An area that does not meet the NAAQS for a given pollutant is classified as a "non-attainment" area for that pollutant. Areas where pollutants were once designated as nonattainment but are now meeting and maintaining the standard are redesignated as a "maintenance area."

During construction under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be a negligible increase in air emissions. Emissions would be created from land clearing, paving concrete and asphalt surfaces, and landscaping. There would also be additional mobile emissions from commuting construction workers and construction equipment. Any impacts from these changes would be short-term and limited to the construction period. All applicable construction and operation permits would be obtained as required by the State of Missouri.

Since the Proposed Action Alternative includes demolition of an existing building and its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, and construction of a new facility and new HVAC system to current standards for ventilation and air quality, no significant change in stationary source emissions after construction is anticipated. Any change in impacts would be negligible.

The project area is located within Stoddard County, Missouri which is designated as "in attainment" for all USEPA NAAQS criteria pollutants (USEPA 2021a; Missouri Spatial Data Information Service 2018). Because the county is in attainment for all NAAQS and the project would occur on a relatively small footprint within the much larger area of Stoddard County, there would be no impact to the county's status in regard to the NAAQS. Further, the project will comply with all county ordinances and state guidance and regulations concerning emissions and air quality; therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Ecologically Critical Areas. The CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)) require consideration of the severity of impact (intensity) on unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to ecologically critical areas. The 87-acre Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus is located within the southeast boundary of the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS 2021a). The Mingo National Wildlife Refuge consists of 21,592 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, cypress-tupelo swamp, marsh, and upland forest ecosystems; the primary purpose of the refuge is to provide food and shelter for migratory waterfowl and to protect the

bottomland hardwood forest (USFWS 2019). The project area for the proposed new dormitory is central to the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus and all construction access would be through the campus main entrance on Missouri T on the southeastern side of the campus, which is not directly adjacent to the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge. No impacts to the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge are anticipated.

The eastern side of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus is surrounded by agriculture and forested lands (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 2021); these areas are not considered ecologically critical areas, but no impact is anticipated. Wetlands located near/on the Center campus are discussed separately below.

The main campus itself is developed with multiple buildings, roadways, and maintained grass-covered lawns with limited tree cover adjacent to the developed areas. No ecologically critical areas in the project area for the construction of the proposed new dormitory have been identified, so there is no impact. This topic was dismissed from further consideration and no further analysis is required.

Floodplains and Floodways. The western and southern portion of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus, i.e. the area generally located west of Bluff Road towards Turkey Creek, is designated as Flood Zone A by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (FEMA 1983). Flood Zone A is the 100-year Floodplain with a 1% annual chance of flooding. The project area for the new dormitory is central to the Center campus above an elevation of 350 feet (USGS 2021) and is located outside of the Flood Zone A. This topic was dismissed because the resource is not present within the direct project area.

Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands. In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) classifies farmland as prime, unique, or of statewide or local importance based on soil type. Prime farmland has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. Unique land is land other than prime farmland used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. Both categories require that the land be available for farming uses. According to the NRCS web soil online mapping tool, Memphis silt loam/8 to 15 percent slopes/severely eroded and Loring silt loam/3 to 8 percent slopes/eroded were identified within the project area for the proposed new dormitory at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center (NRCS 2021a). Both Memphis silt loam and Loring silt loam are classified by the NRCS as Farmland of Statewide Importance. The criteria for defining and delineating Farmland of Statewide Importance are determined by the appropriate State agencies; generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods (NRCS 2021b).

While implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would occur on soils designated as farmland by the NRCS, the Proposed Action Alternative fits with the mission of the Job Corps. Additionally, agriculture is not a function that is present on campus. Based on the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center function and because the project area for the new dormitory is located in a previously disturbed and developed area, the project area is not considered to be

ideal for agricultural use even though it contains farmland soils. There would be no impact to prime and unique agricultural lands.

Soils and Geology. The Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable impact on the soil or geology present in the project area for the proposed new dormitory because the soil was compacted and disturbed during leveling and grading activities of the original construction in the area. Any project activities under the Proposed Action Alternative requiring excavation, backfilling, grading, or movement of heavy equipment within the project area would disturb the soil, increasing the potential for soil erosion by wind or runoff. However, impacts would be negligible because appropriate sediment control measures would be applied in accordance with local regulations to reduce and control erosion. Geological hazards such as sinkholes, caves, mines, or quarries are not known to exist on or adjacent to the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus (Missouri Spatial Data Information Service 2018).

Soils would have little to no measurable impact by the Proposed Action Alternative because the project area for the new dormitory is located in a previously disturbed and developed area and appropriate mitigation measures during construction will be implemented, and geology features would have no impact as none are present. Therefore, this topic was dismissed from further consideration.

Surface Water and Hydrology. The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center is located within the Mingo Swamp subwatershed (HUC 12-080202030103) (USGS 2021). Based on USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) online surface waters and wetlands mapper, there are two freshwater ponds on the Center campus (USFWS 2021b): a 1.74-acre freshwater pond centrally located on the northern side at a terminus of Bluff Road, and a 0.31-acre freshwater pond located east of the developed area of the campus behind paved parking area. There are also several intermittent/semipermanent flooded freshwater areas that total less than an acre, located in forested areas of the campus. Additionally, south of Spillway Road, there is a 3.45-acre area of open water that form a series of retention/detention ponds for sewage treatment (known as the lagoon). Turkey Creek, which is a listed as an impaired water per Section 303d of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Missouri Spatial Data Information Service 2018) and is a tributary to the nearby Mingo Creek, runs in the southern portion of the campus, along and crossing Spillway Road.

There are no surface waters in the project area for the proposed new dormitory, which is separated by Bluff Road and Corps Drive. Therefore, this project would have little to no measurable impact on surface waters.

The Proposed Action Alternative would not change the current or historical drainage patterns for the area. Excavation for the Proposed Action Alternative would not occur deep enough to affect groundwater. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative also would have little to no measurable impact on hydrology because construction activities would not affect surface hydrology or groundwater.

All surface waters are located at lower elevations from the project area for the proposed construction of the new dormitory (USGS 2021). During construction activities under the Proposed Action Alternative, best management practices would be followed to avoid or

minimize erosion and release of sediments that could enter surface waters. Therefore, no further analysis is required.

Wetlands. Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and in normal conditions do support, a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. As indicated by the USFWS NWI online wetlands mapper, the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus contains freshwater forested /shrub wetlands (USFWS 2021b) that are generally located on the western and southern portion of the Center campus, i.e. the area generally located west of Bluff Road towards Mingo Creek. The type of wetland present is classified as typical nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, mosses, or lichens and specifically characterized by woody broad-leafed deciduous angiosperms that are 6 meters or taller in height. There are no designated wetlands present in the developed portion of the campus, and the project area for the proposed new dormitory is separated from the designated wetlands by Bluff Road. The forested area just north of the project area is not designated as wetland. Additionally, west of the Center boundary, riverine wetlands associated with Mingo Creek in the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge are present.

All designated wetlands are located at lower elevations from the project area for the proposed construction of the new dormitory (USGS 2021). During construction activities under the Proposed Action Alternative, best management practices would be followed to ensure there is no erosion or sediment that enters designated wetlands. Therefore, no impacts to wetland resources would be expected to occur as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative, and this topic is not further assessed.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitats. The USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System was reviewed to determine if any federally-listed endangered or threatened species may occur in the project area. According to the official species list generated for the project in IPaC (Appendix A), the federally-listed species identified in Table 2 are known or expected to be on or in the vicinity of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center (USFWS 2021c).

Table 2. Federally Listed Species near the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Gray Bat	*Myotis grisescens*	FE
Indiana Bat	*Myotis sodalist*	FE
Northern Long-eared Bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	FT
Monarch Butterfly	*Danus plexippus*	CD

Source: USFWS 2021c

Notes: FE = Federally endangered; FT = Federally threatened; CD = Candidate.

The Consultation Technical Assistance provided by USFWS in the official species list for the project (Appendix A) lists five potential activities that "may affect" the three Federally listed bat species:

a. Clearing or disturbing suitable roosting habitat, at any time of year;
b. Any activity in or near the entrance to a cave or mine;

c. Mining, deep excavation, or underground work within 0.25 miles of a cave or mine;
d. Construction of one or more wind turbines; or
e. Demolition or reconstruction of human-made structures that are known to be used by bats based on observations of roosting bats, bats emerging at dusk, or guano deposits or stains.

The Proposed Action Alternative does not include any activities that may affect the three federally listed bat species; therefore, there is no impact for the listed bat species.

The project area for the proposed new dormitory is considered developed medium- to high-density (USGS 2021). This project area consists of an existing building (to be demolished), its access, and a maintained grass-covered area that includes limited tree cover and shrubbery that does not provide suitable habitat for wildlife, including that for the Monarch Butterfly (USFWS 2020). Therefore, there is no effect on the Monarch Butterfly from the Proposed Action Alternative.

The proposed project area is not within any designated critical habitat (USFWS 2021c). The species of birds identified in Table 3 are protected under the Migratory Bird Act (16 USC 703-712) and have the potential to occur in the project area (USFWS 2021d). Additionally, while bald eagles are observed statewide in Missouri (Missouri Department of Conservation 2021), there are no known locations of eagle nests within or near the project area. Any noise generated by construction under the Proposed Action Alternative would not appreciably alter the overall ambient noise levels in the surrounding area. Although daytime construction noise may temporarily displace individual species, this would not result in population level effects, as sufficient habitat is available within the vicinity of the site.

Table 3. Migratory Birds near the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Kentucky Warbler	*Oporornis formosus*
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Tringa flavipes*
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*

Source: USFWS 2021d

There would be no impact on federally-listed threatened or endangered species, bald/golden eagles, or migratory birds as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. Concurrence from the Missouri Ecological Services Field Office is not required for “no effect” determinations (USFWS 2021c). Therefore, no further analysis of this topic is required.

Vegetation. Based on the National Land Cover Database inventory, the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus is comprised of natural vegetation (including wetland, deciduous forest, and pasture) and low, medium-, and high-intensity developed land cover (USGS 2021). The developed area includes the main campus with buildings, asphalt or concrete paved surfaces,

open recreational areas (i.e. soccer fields and outdoor equipment areas), and landscaped areas comprised of mown grass with limited areas of trees and shrubs that have been heavily influenced by human disturbance (clearing, draining, grading). The project area for the proposed new dormitory is located in the developed area of the campus. The potential for natural vegetation to be disturbed during construction is limited, and areas of landscaped and maintained vegetation may be disturbed by construction activities. Efforts will be made to preserve existing trees and vegetation to the extent possible during construction, and new areas of landscape vegetation will be replaced/installed as part of the Proposed Action Alternative. Therefore, there would be little to no measurable impact to vegetation and this topic does not require further analysis.

Wildlife. The western portion of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center campus generally west of Bluff Road, as well as the area directly north of the project area, are either designated wetlands and/or deciduous forest that abut Mingo Creek and the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, which provide suitable habitat for a multitude of terrestrial or aquatic species native to the area including opossum, eastern cottontail, squirrels, groundhog, beaver, white-tailed deer, black bear, raccoon, red fox, bats, toads, frogs, and salamander (INaturalist.org 2021). The project area for the proposed new dormitory is a developed area with limited tree cover and landscape vegetation that does not provide suitable habitat for wildlife. Terrestrial species may retreat from habitat near the project area during daytime construction activities, but there is sufficient habitat available within the vicinity of the site. The Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable impact on wildlife; therefore, no further analysis of this topic is required.

Land Use. The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center was activated in 1965 within the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge (State Parks 2021). The proposed project is in Stoddard County Missouri, outside the boundaries of any towns or cities. Parcel owners are not subject to zoning and land use codes or regulations (State of Missouri Data Portal 2021). The land use surrounding the Center is forested and open space. The parcels immediately surrounding the Center are: to the west and north, the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge; to the east, a residential class parcel with no development; and to the south and southwest, two parcels of agricultural class (Stoddard County Assessor 2021).

The Proposed Action Alternative is not changing land use within the Center and will not impact land use outside of the Center. Therefore, land use was not further assessed.

Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential. Executive Order (EO) 13834 requires federal agencies to efficiently operate federal facilities. The EO addresses requirements for federal facilities in energy, environmental water, fleet, buildings, and acquisition management. Currently, only parts 6, 7, and 11 are active (EO 13990). The Proposed Action Alternative includes construction of a 13,736 GSF dormitory which would require an incremental increase in the consumption of electricity and water at the 139,705 GSF Mingo Civilian Conservation Center. The additional energy and water consumption associated with the new dormitory is expected to have little to no measurable impact on total energy and water use at the Center because the building would support the same functions that are already occurring within other buildings and there would be no increase in the number of staff. The new dormitory would include a modern HVAC and plumbing system, which would reduce energy use by a minimum

of 30 percent compared to the baseline building performance (i.e., HVAC and electrical systems and equipment to be installed). Therefore, this topic was not carried forward for analysis.

Climate Change. Climate change refers to any significant changes in average climatic conditions (such as mean temperature, precipitation, or wind) or variability (such as seasonality and storm frequency) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). A report by the National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) U.S. Climate Change Science Program and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides evidence that climate change is occurring as a result of human activity and associated rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and that it could accelerate in coming decades (NCADAC 2013). GHG trap heat in the atmosphere, and the major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), and fluorinated gases, which are gases that are typically emitted from industrial processes. The majority of CO emissions, the primary GHG emitted through human activities, comes from the burning of fossil fuels (USEPA 2020). While climate change is a global phenomenon, it manifests differently depending on regional and local factors. General changes that are expected in the future as a result of climate change include hotter, drier summers; warmer winters; warmer water; higher ocean levels; more severe wildfires; degraded air quality; more frequent heavy downpours; and increased drought.

The Proposed Action Alternative would not result in an increase in the number of vehicles entering and exiting the Center during daily operations. During construction, the Proposed Action Alternative would include the use of heavy equipment, typical of demolition/construction projects. All applicable construction and operation permits would be obtained as required by the State of Missouri. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would result in little to no measurable impact to regional climate change.

Hazardous and Toxic Substances. The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center is a listed facility in the USEPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online system for violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Resource, Conservation, and Recovery Act (RCRA) (USEPA 2021b). These violations were related to effluent from the facility, for which there is a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and the pre-transport condition of hazardous materials. Neither of these affect the construction activities of the Proposed Action Alternative. Construction activities would result in the generation of a small amount of non-hazardous construction waste. All debris generated during construction activities would be transported off-site and disposed in compliance with applicable solid waste handling laws and regulations. Hazardous waste would not be generated by construction of the facility, nor would construction affect any hazardous waste sites. Therefore, hazardous and toxic substances were not further assessed.

Noise. Noise is usually defined as unwanted sound, a definition that includes both the psychological and physical nature of the sound. Under certain conditions, noise may cause hearing loss, interfere with human activities at home and work, and may affect human health and well-being in various ways. The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center is generally surrounded by forest on three sides and farmland to the south. Sensitive noise receptors in the vicinity of the proposed project are the Center's dormitories.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, equipment used in demolition, site preparation, and construction could at times generate noise above ambient levels. Estimated noise levels for heavy construction equipment range from 75 to 105 decibels (dB) at 50 feet from the source and the sound intensity generally decreases 6 dB with each doubling of the distance from the source (USEPA 1971). During demolition and construction activities, sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project area would experience intermittent, temporary noise caused by construction equipment. Construction activities would only be conducted during daylight hours. Because noise impacts would be of short duration and only during daytime hours, there would be little to no measurable impact to noise from the Proposed Action Alternative.

Indian Trust Resources. Indian trust assets are owned by Native Americans but held in trust by the United States. Requirements are included in the Secretary of the Interior's Secretarial Order No. 3206, "American Indian Tribal Rites, Federal – Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Endangered Species Act," and Secretarial Order No. 3175, "Departmental Responsibilities for Indian Trust Resources." Indian trust assets do not occur within the project area.

Transportation. Access on and through the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center is provided via two north-south roadways that are both two-way, paved, and unstriped: Corps Road, an internal access road on the east that terminates on the campus, and Bluff Road, that runs on the western side of the developed portion of the campus and continues north. As part of the Proposed Action Alternative, a drop-off aisle and accessible parking spaces as required by Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) standards and for the mechanical room, emergency and loading access will be provided at the proposed new dormitory building.

Missouri State Highway T, which is a two-lane paved roadway classified as a rural minor collector (Missouri Department of Transportation [MoDOT] 2012), provides access to the Center and to the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge via Spillway Road, which is a two-way, paved, unstriped local access road.

During construction activities there would be negligible impacts to local transportation due to the Proposed Action Alternative. A short-term increase in vehicular traffic on the local streets would occur during construction of the Proposed Action Alternative for access of truck and heavy equipment traffic to and from the site and from commuting construction workers. Construction would be limited and no new access roads during construction would be required. There are no known public transit facilities in or near the area. Because the impacts would have little to no measurable impact on transportation resources, no further analysis of this topic is required.

Utilities. Current utilities located at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center include electrical service, natural gas, telephone/communications, and on-site water and sewer.

Electric. Electrical service is provided by Ozark Border Electric Cooperative. The cooperative serves twelve counties in southeast Missouri. There are almost 4,000 connections in Stoddard County (Ozark Border 2021). The electrical service enters the Center at the southeast corner of the property. Power is distributed throughout the campus through radial overhead distribution (DOL 2020a).

Natural Gas. Liberty Utilities supplies underground natural gas to the Center. Distribution is through an underground system connected to each building. Usage is measured at individual

meters and used for facility heating, cooking, and domestic hot water. The pressure and flow to the Center is adequate, in good condition and functions well (DOL 2020a).

Communication. AT&T and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services provide fiber lines into the Job Corps Data Center, Administration Building 263 (DOL 2020a). Cabling from Building 263 is distributed overhead to the vocation area and underground to the rest of the buildings.

Water and Sewer. The Center has two wells adjacent to Water Treatment Building 270. The flow rates are 50 gallons per minute (GPM) and 80 GPM. Water treatment consists of a water softener filtration system and gas chlorination and auto-feed bleach process. The water is pumped and stored in an aboveground storage tank (AST) of 120,000 gallons. The water tower storage tank and supply systems are in good condition. The sewer treatment system is on-site via lagoon treatment in three non-aerated basin cells. The cells hold approximately 4,000,000 gallons. The daily flow rate is approximately 17,000 gallons per day (GPD). The system is gravity flow, other than a pump at the welding shop, and is generally in good condition (DOL 2020a).

Because the utility services available in the area have the capacity to expand to provide service for any new development in the project area under the Proposed Action Alternative, any change in demand and usage would result in little to no measurable impact and this topic was not carried forward for analysis.

5.2.2 Impact Topics Retained for Analysis

Two impact topics were retained for further analysis as further described in Section 5.3 below. These topics warranted more detailed analysis because of the need to gather more extensive data to determine whether resources are present (e.g., archaeological resources) or due to the sensitivity of resources known to be present (e.g., low-income populations) within the project area or surrounding areas. Impact topics assessed include:

- Cultural Resources (see Section 5.3); and
- Socioeconomics (see Section 5.4).

5.3 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are prehistoric and historic sites, structures, districts, artifacts, or any other physical evidence of human activity considered important to a culture, subculture, or community for traditional, religious, scientific, or any other reason. Cultural resources are discussed in terms of archaeological resources, including both prehistoric and historical occupations, architectural resources (historic buildings), and properties of religious or cultural significance to Native American Tribes, including Traditional Cultural Properties. Historic properties, as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), represent the subset of cultural resources listed on, or eligible for, inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Identification of NRHP-eligible resources, including archaeological sites, architectural resources, and Native American resources, was conducted according to requirements of 36 CFR 800 for Section 106 of the NHPA. The Section 106 process was initiated with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on February 17, 2022 (Appendix A). The Area of Potential Effects (APE) was established in coordination with that office.

5.3.1 Affected Environment

The APE for cultural resources for the Proposed Action Alternative at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center consists of the footprint of the proposed construction of the new dormitory; the APE totals 1.29 acres (Figure 5).

Archival research included a review of listings on the NRHP, assessment of historic cartographic records and a general literature search. A site files search was conducted on December 1, 2021 using the online information provided by the Missouri SHPO for archaeological resources (through the Archaeology Viewer) and architectural resources. Three archaeological investigations have been conducted within a one-mile radius of the APE (Connor 2001; Harl 2004; Felty 2019). In 2001, an archaeological survey was conducted of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center by the Southwest Missouri State University, Center for Archaeological Research (Connor 2001). The archaeological investigations consisted of a literature review, pedestrian survey, and shovel testing (n=177 shovel pits) (Connor 2001). In 2004, an archaeological site evaluation was conducted for the proposed fence replacement at the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge; both pedestrian survey and shovel testing were performed (Harl 2004). In 2019, an archaeological survey was conducted for Bridge L0738 over Turkey Creek on Route T located about 2,500 feet south/southeast of the APE. The survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing (Felty 2019). Fifteen archaeological sites, located within a one-mile radius of the APE, are all prehistoric occupations characterized as lithic scatters, campsites, burial sites, or mounds (Table 4) (Connor 2001). One site is listed as a contributing element to the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge Archaeological District. Three sites have been determined not eligible and two sites are unevaluated; NRHP eligibility for the other nine sites is unknown.

Four prehistoric archaeological sites have been identified as located within the boundaries of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center. Two archaeological sites, SO35 and SO36, a prehistoric burial mound and campsite, were recorded in the 1930s/1940s but their exact locations within the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center boundaries remain uncertain (Connor 2001:12-13). Both sites have been determined not eligible and both have been destroyed through subsequent ground disturbing activities including agricultural plowing and construction of the Center. Two additional sites, SO615 and SO616, both lithic scatters, were recorded during the 2001 survey but are not located within the APE; site SO615 is considered not eligible (Connor 2001).

5.3.1.1 Archaeological Resources

In 1934, the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center area was an undeveloped ridgetop north of the intersection of two branches of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway near the small hamlet of Mingo (USGS 1934). Mingo Creek was located to the west and Turkey Creek was located to the east (USGS 1934, 1942, 1950). In 1955, the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center area consisted of several plowed fields separated by lines of trees and a forested area to the north. Contour plowing indicated the ridgetop and sloping terrain of the area (NETR 1955). In 1961, evidence of contour plowing was present, although several fields appeared to be fallow (NETR 1961). By 1963, the two branches of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway had been removed and Bluff Road had been constructed along the west side of the ridgetop (USGS 1963). In 1965, the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center was activated and construction of the Center was completed by 1967 (DOL 2020a). Additional ground disturbance at the Center occurred during construction

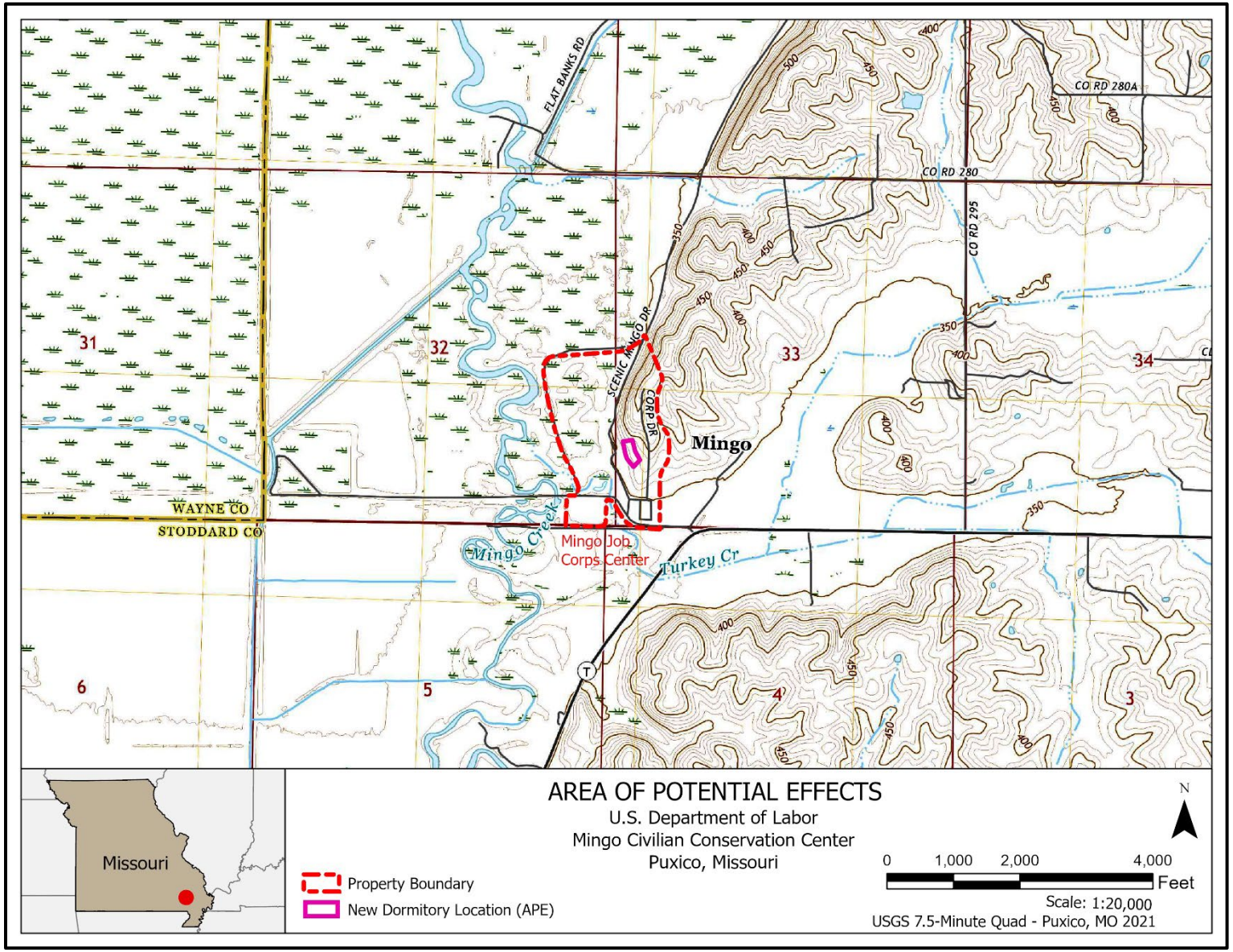

Figure 5. Area of Potential Effects (APE)

activities in the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s (DOL 2020a). Building 255, located in the APE, was constructed in 1974 (DOL 2020a).

During the archaeological survey conducted at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center in 2001 (Connor 2001), the original topography and ground surface in the central portion of the campus was determined to have been extensively altered (heavily excavated, leveled, and/or infilled) during construction of the Center (Connor 2001: 16). Some fill areas within the Center contain prehistoric artifacts, illustrating the redistribution of soils once containing intact archaeological deposits (Connor 2001). The area defined as from Building 272 west to Building 227 (gymnasium) and south to Building 255 (former dormitory), which roughly corresponds to the APE, was extensively excavated (cut activities) and no original soil stratigraphy or intact archaeological sites are extant (Connor 2001: 16).

Based on the previous ground disturbance related to contour plowing, initial construction of the Center, subsequent construction activities from 1974 (i.e. construction of Building 255 in 1974) to 2019, and the results of the 2001 archaeological survey, no archaeological resources occur within the APE.

Table 4. Previously Identified Cultural Resources within a One-Mile Radius of the APE

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility
23SO33	Burial Site	Unevaluated
23SO34	Campsite (projectile points, debitage, tools, hammerstones)	Unknown
23SO35	Burial Site in a Sandy Mound	Not Eligible (Destroyed)
23SO36	Campsite	Not Eligible (Destroyed)
23SO141	Campsite	Unknown
23SO319	Archaic and Early Woodland Period Mound and Midden	Listed as a contributing element to the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge Archaeological District
23SO342	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO345	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO348	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO389	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO390	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO391	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO392	Lithic Scatter	Unknown
23SO6015	Lithic Scatter (biface, debitage)	Not Eligible
23SO616	Lithic Scatter (debitage)	Unevaluated

5.3.1.2 Architectural Resources

Of the 21 buildings at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center, only two buildings remain that were built during the initial construction phase in the late 1960s: Building 227, Gymnasium and Building 232, the Training Building. Neither building is located within the APE. No information is currently available on which agency (Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Department of Labor, Job Corps Program) was responsible for the construction of the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center or whether standardized plans and specific architectural styles were used.

Building 255, the former Men's Dormitory, was constructed in 1974 and is the only building located within the APE. Building 255 is a one-story wood frame building set on concrete and wood piers with a wood roof; it is a post-and-beam structure (DOL 2020b). The exterior walls are wood posts with wood siding. Building 255 has shed type roof with asphalt shingles. The exterior doors are metal unit/metal frame and storefront/storefront frame; the windows are fixed with aluminum frame and wire glass glazing and the clerestory windows are fixed with wood frame and single glazing (DOL 2020b). The interior walls consist of ceramic tile, plywood, drywall, and wood paneling; the ceilings are gypsum board or exposed structure. The floors are carpet, plywood, or ceramic tile. The building layout has two open bays divided with low partitions to create groups of six- to eight-bed units. When it was operational, it had a 50-bed capacity in two rooms with shared toilet rooms and showers and no designated study areas. Building 255 has been vacant since 2013 due to a reduction in student population. The interiors are deteriorated, furniture is worn and damaged, and high-bay corridors ceilings have mildew. The exterior structural wood poles, beams, and siding are progressively deteriorating. Building 255 represents a basic open floor plan dormitory structure that is less than 50 years old. Building 255 is not considered eligible for the NRHP.

5.3.1.3 Properties of Religious or Cultural Significance to Native American Tribes

Native American Tribes with a potential interest in the project area based on location or historical ties to the area were identified. The DOL initiated consultation with the Chickasaw Nation and the Quapaw Nation in letters dated January 27, 2022 (Appendix A). No comments or concerns were received from the Tribes; therefore, no properties of religious or cultural significance to Native American tribes are known to occur within the proposed project area.

5.3.2 Environmental Consequences

Impact analyses presented here are intended to comply with the requirements of both NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA and in accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations implementing Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties). A determination of either adverse effect or no adverse effect must be made for affected NRHP-listed or eligible cultural resources. An adverse effect occurs whenever an impact alters, directly or indirectly, any characteristic of a cultural resource that qualifies it for inclusion in the NRHP (e.g., diminishing the integrity of the resource's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association). A determination of no adverse effect means that

historic properties are present, but the effect would not diminish in any way the characteristics of the cultural resource that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP.

5.3.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes to existing conditions from new construction would occur. The existing dormitories would continue to be used. Because the proposed project would not take place, there would be no impacts to cultural resources.

5.3.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to archaeological resources are expected because there is limited potential for intact archaeological resources to occur within the previously developed and disturbed portion of the APE, which consists of the new dormitory footprint. No historic architectural resources and no Native American resources occur in the APE. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative is expected to have no impact to cultural resources.

5.4 Socioeconomic Environment

This section describes the existing socioeconomic conditions, as well as potential impacts that could result from taking no action or implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative.

5.4.1 Affected Environment

In this section, current socioeconomic conditions with potential to be affected by the Proposed Action Alternative are presented.

5.4.1.1 Economic Development

Local Economic Activity. The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center has approximately 144 students between 16 and 24 years of age consisting of 120 resident men and 24 resident women (DOL 2020a).

Stoddard County's civilian labor force in 2019 was 13,093 persons with an unemployment rate of 3.1 percent. The estimated labor force has decreased somewhat from 2015 values (13,575) while unemployment dropped from 5.1 percent (U.S. Census Bureau [USCB] 2021a). Unemployment in Stoddard County was slightly affected by closures from the on-going COVID-19 pandemic as average annual values were at 6 percent (Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS] 2021a). According to data from the BLS, unemployment in the State of Missouri, which reached as high as 12.5 percent in April 2020, has since rebounded to 4 percent as of August 2021 (BLS 2021b).

Of the 12,370 persons who are 16 years and over and employed, the majority work in educational services and healthcare and social assistance (25.6 percent), followed by manufacturing (14.1 percent), retail trade (14.0 percent), transportation, warehousing, and utilities (7.6 percent), and construction (7.0 percent) among others (USCB 2021a).

Regional Economic Activity. The regional economic activity analysis is within the boundaries of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, a district designated by the Federal Reserve to

encompass 64 counties in Missouri in addition to counties in Arkansas and parts of Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee. According to the latest report, released on September 8, 2021, existing labor and material shortages continue to restrain the ability to meet customer demand and are ultimately holding back growth. Sales activity within the real estate sector remains high despite strong price growth and low inventories. Agriculture within the district remains favorable when compared to previous years. Employment has been increased modestly while organizations in the district reported worker shortages and high turnover rates (Federal Reserve 2021).

5.4.1.2 Population Demographics

Stoddard County has an estimated 2019 population of 29,377, slightly lower than the estimated 2015 population of 29,837 (USCB 2021b). Minority persons are 4.61 percent of the population. Out of the total population, including Latinos that also identify as another minority, 1.5 percent are African American and 1.45 percent are two or more races (USCB 2021c). The remaining minorities are at a level that are below 50 persons and therefore are not identified, in accordance with USCB privacy policies. The estimated median household income for 2019 in Stoddard County was $41,062, which is about 7.5 percent higher than 2015 values of $38,203 (USCB 2021a). The percentage of those living at or below the poverty level in Stoddard County is 18.2 percent out of a population of 28,854 for whom poverty status has been determined. This is higher than the poverty levels in Missouri (13.7 percent) and in the Country (13.4 percent) (USCB 2021d).

5.4.1.3 Housing

The median value of an owner-occupied housing unit in Duck Creek Township is $116,000 (Table 5; USCB 2021e). This is 11 percent higher than the median value of owner-occupied housing in Stoddard County, which has a median value of $104,200. Out of 1,518 total housing units in Duck Creek Township, 1,265 (or approximately 83.3 percent) are single-unit, detached housing units. Approximately 74.7 percent of housing units in Duck Creek Township are owner-occupied and 25.3 percent are renter-occupied.

Table 5. Housing Characteristics, 2019

Jurisdiction	Total Housing Units	Percent Vacant	Percent Owner Occupied	Median Value Owner Occupied	Median Rent Renter Occupied	Median Household Income
Duck Creek Township	1,518	20.8	74.7	$116,000	$599	$44,821
Stoddard County	13,748	16.1	68.0	$104,200	$621	$41,062
Missouri	2,819,334	12.8	67.1	$168,000	$834	$57,409

Source: USCB 2021e

A search on the National Association of Realtors website for property for-sale within the zip code 63960, Puxico, Missouri, revealed 9 properties available including 9 single-family homes. The homes were listed between $25,000 and $205,000 (National Association of Realtors 2021).

5.4.1.4 Community Services

Community services examined include education, health services, law enforcement, fire protection, and recreation.

Education. According to the U.S. Census Bureau data on Educational Attainment, approximately 37.2 percent of the those between 18 to 24 years old living in Stoddard County have a high school degree; this value is slightly higher than Missouri (31.3 percent) and the Nation as a whole (35 percent). However, Stoddard County (1.9 percent) lags behind Missouri (10.5 percent) and the Nation (32 percent) when it comes to those with a Bachelor's degree or higher (USCB 2021f).

The Center lies within the Puxico R-8 School District, which manages and oversees Puxico Elementary School, Puxico Junior High School, and Puxico High School. Puxico Elementary School, located 3.4 miles away at 481 N Bedford St, Puxico, MO 63960, is the closest facility to the Center (Puxico R-8 School District 2021).

Health Services. Many of the regional medical facilities in proximity to the Center are located along U.S. Route 60. The closest of these facilities is the Southeast Health Center of Stoddard County, located about 25 miles away from the Center at 1200 N 1 Mile Rd, Dexter, MO 63841. The hospital, established in 1969, provides internal medicine, cancer care, emergency room, physical therapy, and rehabilitation services among others (SoutheastHealth 2021).

Medical/dental facilities at the Center are located in the Wellness Building 285. The facility, consisting of a reception and waiting areas, two examination rooms, a dental room, a laboratory, nurses and administrative offices, two two-bed ward rooms, an isolation room, and medical storage, is in good condition, and functions well for the Center's needs (DOL 2020a).

Law Enforcement. The Puxico Police Department is the law enforcement entity located closest to the Center at 141 North Hickman St, Puxico, Missouri 63960. However, the Center is located outside of the jurisdiction of the City of Puxico and within Stoddard County. Therefore, it is subject to law enforcement by the Stoddard County Sheriff's Department, which is located about 19 miles east of the Center at 207 S Prairie St, Bloomfield, MO 63825.

The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center does not have security fencing around its perimeter as it is located in a remote area within the Mingo Wildlife Refuge. Security cameras were recently installed within some vocational buildings. There are two manual gates on State Highway T and two gates at the north service entry (DOL 2020a).

Fire Protection. The Puxico Fire Department is an all-volunteer fire department that responds to fires within the City and within the Puxico Rural Fire District. The Department is located 3 miles from the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center at 281 E Owen Ave, Puxico, MO 63960 (City of Puxico 2021). It has a 15- to 20-minute response time to the Center due to being on volunteer status (DOL 2020a).

The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center has five fire hydrants with adequate water pressure distributed throughout the site. In addition to an aboveground water storage tank, water from the swimming pool, which is located adjacent to the Gymnasium Building 227, can be used with a mobile pumper for fire suppression (DOL 2020a).

Recreation. Recreational facilities within the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center are located within the Recreation/Canteen Building (Building 261) and the Gymnasium (Building 227). Amenities include a gymnasium, arts and crafts, weight room, a pool hall, and lounge.

Outdoor recreational facilities at the Center include a swimming pool, located adjacent to the Gymnasium, basketball court, ball field with bleachers, and pavilions (DOL 2020a).

5.4.1.5 Environmental Justice

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations*. The purpose of this EO is to avoid the disproportionate placement of adverse environmental, economic, social, or health impacts from federal actions and policies on minority and low-income populations or communities.

The USCB uses a set of money income thresholds that vary based on family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. For example, a family of four with two related children under the age of 18 making at or less than the threshold of mean income for a family is $26,246, which is considered to be in poverty based on 2020 estimates (USCB 2021g). Mean income for families in Stoddard County were estimated to be $63,226 in 2019, up from $62,362 in 2015 (USCB 2021a). Data from USCB shows that Stoddard County, at 18.2 percent, has a higher poverty rate than the State of Missouri (13.7 percent) and the Nation (13.4 percent) (USCB 2021d).

5.4.1.6 Protection of Children

On April 21, 1997, President Clinton issued EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*. This EO recognizes that a growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks.

DOL intends to fully comply with EO 13045 by incorporating these concerns in decision-making processes supporting DOL policies, programs, projects, and activities. In this regard, the DOL ensures that it would identify, disclose, and respond to potential adverse social and environmental impacts on children within the area affected by a proposed DOL action.

5.4.2 Environmental Consequences

In this section the potential impacts to socioeconomic resources that could result from taking no action and from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative are described.

5.4.2.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on economic development, population demographics, housing, community services, and environmental justice because there would be no change from existing conditions. Under this alternative, the existing/baseline conditions would continue at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center.

5.4.2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

The following section details potential impacts to each aspect of socioeconomics that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative.

Economic Development. The Proposed Action Alternative would result in beneficial impacts due to increased revenue to the area during construction phase due to use of regional construction labor. Long-term effects on the local economy would have little to no measurable impact.

Population Demographics. The Proposed Action Alternative would result in no impact to the demographics of the local or regional areas.

Housing. The Proposed Action Alternative would result in no impact to housing in the local or regional areas.

Community Services. There are no anticipated impacts to police, fire, or law enforcement public services (i.e., police and fire protection, hospital services) or recreational opportunities as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. There would be no increase in staff as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative and therefore, there would not be any additional demand on the services resulting in no impact.

Environmental Justice. The Proposed Action Alternative would not negatively affect low-income or minority families with respect to health, community disruption, transportation, planned development, or employment. No families, whether in these socioeconomic groups or not, would be relocated as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. There would be no changes in local populations or other social factors as a result of the Proposed Action Alternative. The Mingo Civilian Conservation Center would provide services to low income families, through their educational and training program. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would meet the requirements of EO 12898.

Protection of Children. There are no anticipated impacts to the safety of children during the construction phase of the project. Appropriate federal and state safety measures and health regulations would be followed to protect the health and safety of all residents as well as workers. Safety measures, barriers, and “no trespassing” signs would be placed around the perimeter of construction sites to deter children from playing in these areas, and construction vehicles and equipment would be secured when not in use. There would be no impacts to the safety of children from the Proposed Action Alternative. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would meet the requirements of EO 13045.

5.5 Cumulative Impacts

A cumulative impact analysis evaluates the incremental effects of implementing the Proposed Action Alternative when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future DOL or other actions at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center and the actions of other parties in the surrounding area, where applicable. A five-year planning horizon was used for this assessment (five years into the past and five years into the future).

5.5.1 Actions at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center

Within the past five years, the operator has completed and began current maintenance, repair, and minor renovation projects on the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center (DOL 2020a). These projects have included:

Completed Projects

- Renovation for Wellness Center Building 285.
- Reinstallation of two roof top HVAC units, and food warmer and dishwasher Building 253.
- Replacement of fire alarm system Building 268.
- Replacement of chlorine gas in water treatment system Building 270.
- Replacement of four package HVAC units Building 272.
- Replacement of fire alarm system and deck replacement Building 280.

Current Projects

- Construction of Career Technical Training Building 29.

Reasonably foreseeable future actions (other than the Proposed Action Alternative) that may occur at the Center include the following construction, repair, renovation, and replacement projects funded or recommended as of the most recent Facility Planning Report (DOL 2020a).

- Replacement of roof and boilers Education Building 280.
- Replacement of flooring in Education, Women's, and Men's Dormitories, Buildings 280, 262, 272.
- Replacement of flooring in Laundry Building 268.
- Replacement of fire alarm systems in Painting, Carpentry, and Gymnasium Buildings 267, 258, and 227.
- Replacement of electrical service distribution equipment in Fire Training and Heavy Equipment Buildings 232 and 260.
- Replacement of electrical switchboard in Dining Hall Building 253.
- Replacement of magnetic starters for exhaust fans in Welding Shop Building 202.
- Replacement of light fixtures in Dining Hall and Welding Shop Buildings 253 and 202.
- Replacement of air curtains and booster heater in Dining Hall Building 253.

5.5.2 Actions by Others in the Surrounding Area

There are no actions in the foreseeable future to be performed by others. MoDOT has no transportation improvements that are in the immediate vicinity (MoDOT 2021). Stoddard County does not have a comprehensive plan.

5.5.3 Potential Cumulative Impacts

Recent maintenance, repair, and minor renovation projects conducted at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center do not appear to have resulted in any adverse impacts, and have led to the beneficial impacts of needed improvements to the facility. All of the potential future projects planned for the facility are expected to result in similar beneficial impacts to continued operation of the Center, while any adverse impacts would likely be negligible or mitigated, pending assessment as part of future NEPA studies, if required.

5.5.3.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed project would not occur. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to cumulative impacts resulting from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects in the surrounding area.

5.5.3.2 Proposed Action Alternative

As presented in Sections 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4, the Proposed Action Alternative would have little to no measurable impact on soils and geology, surface waters, vegetation, wildlife, climate change, energy requirements, noise, transportation, and utilities. The potential effects associated with these impacts would be short-term related to construction activities and any effects would be avoided or minimized with the implementation of the mitigation measures or best management practices presented in Section 5.6. The Proposed Action Alternative, therefore, in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities, would not contribute to significant cumulative impacts to the surrounding area.

5.6 Mitigation Measures or Best Management Practices

Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would incorporate measures to mitigate environmental impacts during construction, operation, and maintenance activities, as follows:

- Prior to commencement of any construction activities, a silt fence or other suitable control device would be placed between the construction area and any potentially affected waterway or drainage area. The barrier would be maintained in a functioning capacity until the area is permanently stabilized upon project completion. Other erosion control measures to minimize indirect impacts to aquatic resources may include staked straw bales, brush barriers, sediment basins, and diversion ditches.
- Runoff from construction areas would be collected and stored in an approved and permitted storm water collection system prior to discharge.
- Once initiated, project construction would be carried out in an expeditious manner in order to minimize the period of disturbance to the environment.
- If needed, water sprayers would be used during dry weather in conjunction with grading and excavating to minimize fugitive dust.
- During construction, all necessary measures would be taken to prevent oil, tar, trash, debris, and other pollutants from entering adjacent waterways. Construction areas would be cleaned on a daily basis and onsite trash containers would remain closed, except when adding or removing trash.

- Upon completion of the construction activities, all adjacent disturbed areas would be permanently stabilized with a grass or vegetative covering.

In combination, these practices are designed to prevent or reduce environmental impacts at the proposed construction site and within the surrounding area.

6.0 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This EA was conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500), and the DOL NEPA Compliance Procedures (29 CFR §11). As analyzed and discussed in this EA, impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative for construction of a new dormitory and associated utilities at the Mingo Civilian Conservation Center have been considered and no significant impacts were identified. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

7.0 AGENCY CONSULTATION

DOL contacted federal and state agencies and two federally-recognized Native American tribes regarding the Proposed Action Alternative. The letters and agency responses are presented in Appendix A. The following agencies were consulted:

- Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Chickasaw Nation
- Quapaw Nation

8.0 PREPARERS OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Engineering Support Contractor (ESC) prepared this EA under Contract DOL 121A21848 for the DOL Job Corps program. The ESC's Parsons environmental specialists who prepared this document are listed as follows:

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APPENDIX A
AGENCY COMMENT SOLICITATION LETTERS