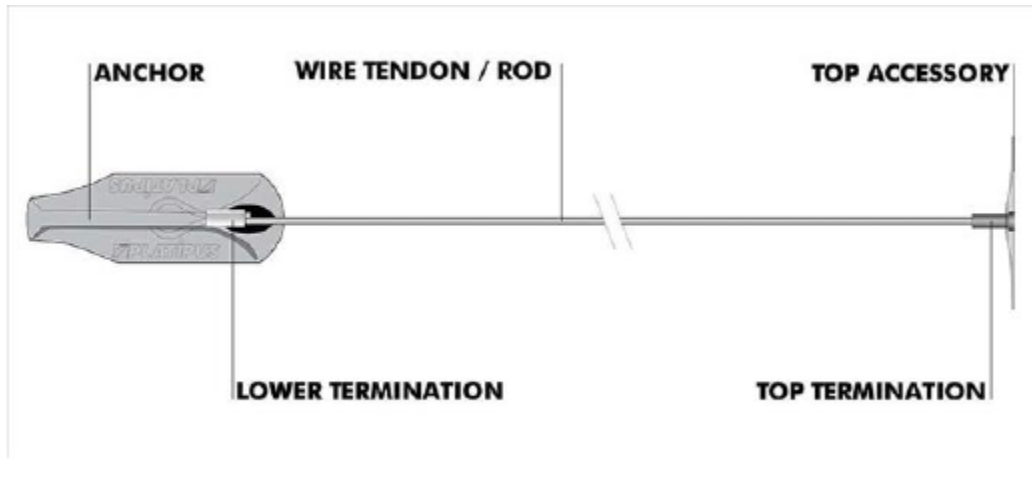


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SECTION A. Project Title: MFC and CFA Nesting Structures

SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:

MFC plans to create bird nesting structures for both barn and cliff swallows to help further avoid potential conflicts between operations, personnel, and nesting birds in areas inside the MFC fence. Two structures, one for barn swallows and one for cliff swallows, will be installed by purchasing and modifying two 8 ft x 12 ft animal shelter sheds. The nesting structures will be located outside of the MFC fence near the Industrial Wastewater Pond. Modifications to the shed units will include installing sheet metal along the walls, both inside and out, to a height of 3 ft from the ground. Both structures will be anchored to the ground using a Platipus Earth Anchoring system to secure the structures and cause minimal soil disturbance. Additional rafters with horizontal ledges will be added to allow birds to build their nests on.



Earth Anchoring Device



8ft x 12ft pre-fab animal shed

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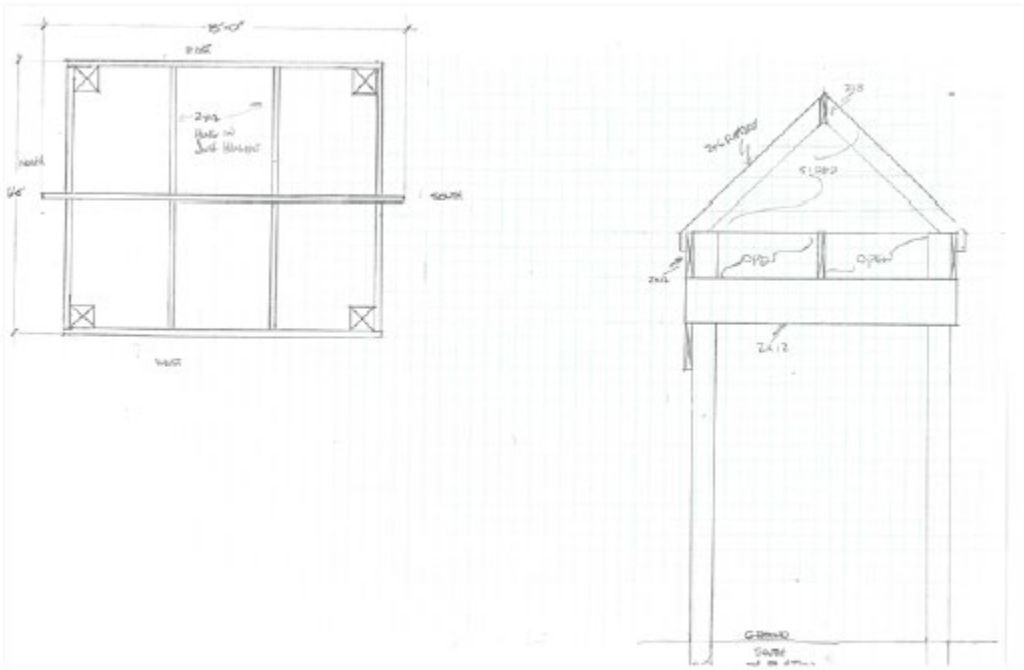
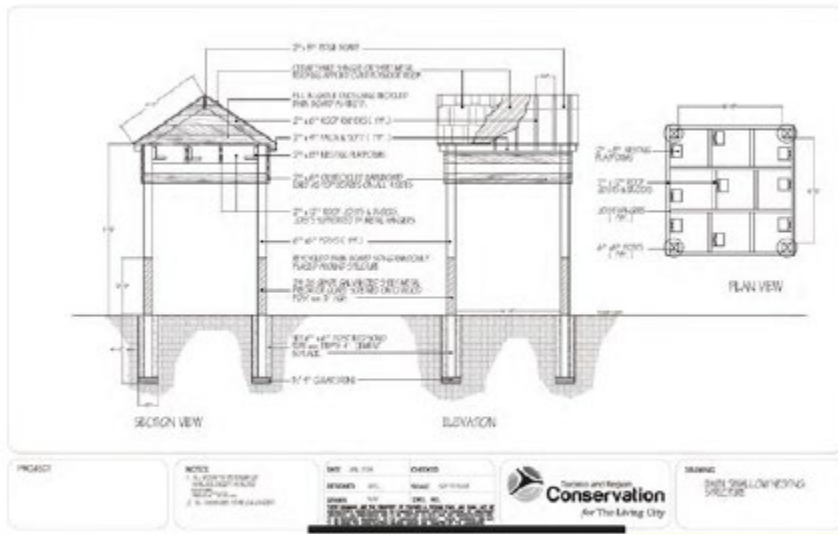
Potential build locations

CFA also plans to build and install swallow nesting structures near the CFA sewage lagoons. The purpose of this project is to provide alternative nesting locations for swallows in order to potentially reduce the number of nests at CFA. CFA crafts will build and install two structures. See below for structure detail and potential locations. Locations will be chosen to limit sagebrush disturbance.



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SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:

Air Emissions

N/A

Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water

N/A

Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources

There is the potential for this work to impact vegetation and for project personnel to interact with various wildlife species. A Biological Resource Review will be arranged within two weeks prior to the initiation of any activities that might disturb soil or vegetation and again following completion of project activities. A nesting bird survey is included with the Biological Resource Review for actions occurring between April 1 - October 1 per compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Bat surveys are also included with the Biological Resource Review in accordance with the INL Bat Protection Plan.

Anchoring sheds to ground will disturb soil and vegetation in previously undisturbed areas, which may affect cultural and biological resources.

A Section 106 review was completed under CRMO Project number BEA-23-07 and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected.

Generating and Managing Waste

When wastes are generated, how they are disposed can adversely affect the environment. Managing wastes appropriately and responsibly and implementing recycling or reuse practices, where feasible, during project activities can reduce the potential impact on the environment.

Releasing Contaminants

N/A

Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources

Recycled materials will be used to the greatest extent practicable in the selection of materials. All materials will be reused and/or recycled where economically practicable. All applicable waste will be diverted from disposal in the landfill where conditions allow.

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SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification: Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

For Categorical Exclusions (CXs), the proposed action must not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not "connected" to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

References:

B1.20 "Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat"

Justification:

Small-scale activities undertaken to protect cultural resources (such as fencing, labeling, and flagging) or to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders and minor diversion channels), or fisheries. Such activities would be conducted in accordance with an existing natural or cultural resource plan, if any.'

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) Yes No

Approved by Jason L. Anderson, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 04/21/2023.