



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT New Wildlife Staff Office Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Beaver Dam Road & Soil Conservation Road Beltsville, Maryland	NCPC FILE NUMBER 8184 NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 3214.10(00.00)45265
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service	ACTION TAKEN Approve final site and building plans REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has submitted final site and building plans for a new Wildlife Staff Office (WSO) building located within the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The project site is located east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on Beaver Dam Road, just east of Soil Conservation Road. The preliminary project plans were reviewed and approved as a delegated action in July 2020. Since that time, the applicant has completed the environmental and historic preservation reviews. The overall design has not changed substantially.

This project is necessary because USDA is transferring approximately 105 acres along Poultry Road to the U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT) for construction of a new currency production facility for its Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP). Since BARC continues to operate a WSO within the 105-acre boundary, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Baltimore District agreed to assist BARC with the design and construction efforts for the new WSO. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also developing the design of the new BEP facility and will submit that project to NCPC separately in the future.

The WSO is a two-person operation, primarily focused on supporting the hunting program within BARC boundaries. BARC has a hunting program to reduce deer population which can impact both research and production crops as well as the local ecology. Wildlife staff are responsible for checking hunters in and directing them to their hunting grounds for the day. Wildlife staff instruct hunters to hunt in areas where deer are a nuisance in order to regulate their populations. BARC staff note that approximately 250 visitors will use the new building annually. Wildlife staff also enforce hunting curfews for the day and oversee any venison donations that may result from hunting. BARC staff distribute donated venison to local charities. The employees only operate out of the office during the hunting season and other times during the year as necessary.

BARC is proposing to move the WSO into a new modular building placed in an open field adjacent to the gravel parking lot that serves Building 513 (located off of Beaver Dam Road on the East Farm of BARC). The project consists of a new 24-foot by 60-foot modular building, a concrete pad for the new modular building to be placed on, two ADA-compliant parking spaces, and a septic sanitary system. The site sits directly west of BARC's Building 513 and its associated garage, Building 513A. This garage also has a large freezer used to store donated venison. Building 513

was previously utilized as a Wildlife Office/Hunter check-in, though it was vacated due to structural concerns in 2018.

This project is not specifically referred to in the master plan, however it is consistent with the BARC agricultural use. The project is consistent with Federal Environment, Historic Preservation, and Federal Workplace Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. It will be sited on existing federal property, located in an open area and not require tree removal, and will minimize impacts to historic resources by being placed away from them.

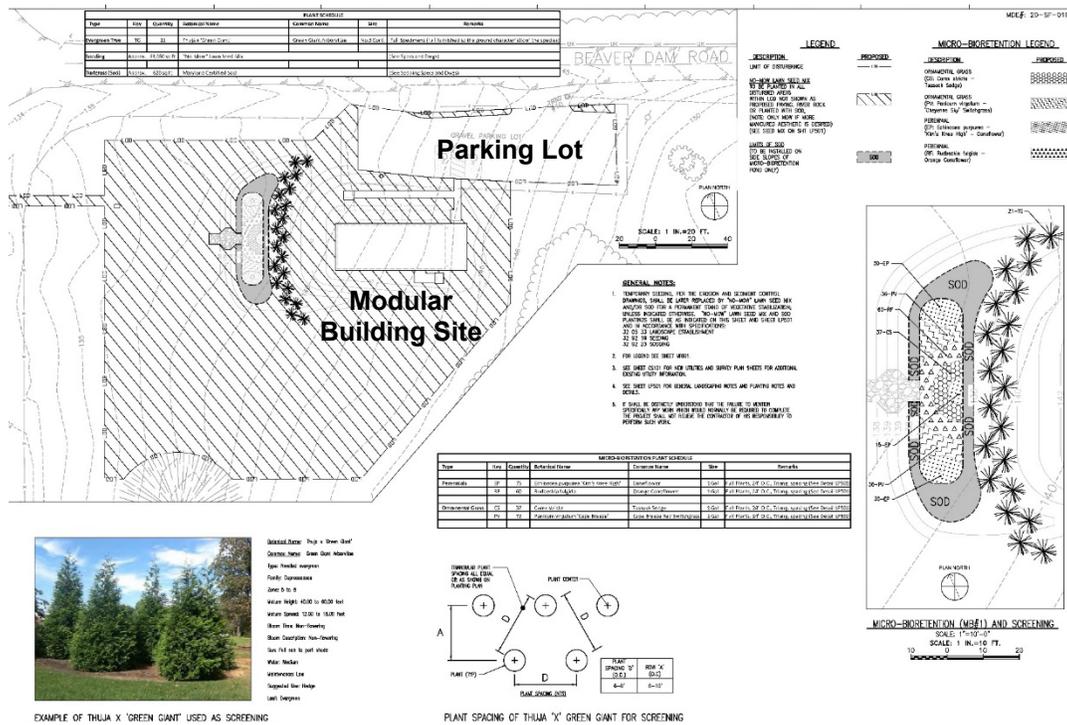


Figure 1 – Proposed Site/Landscape Plan

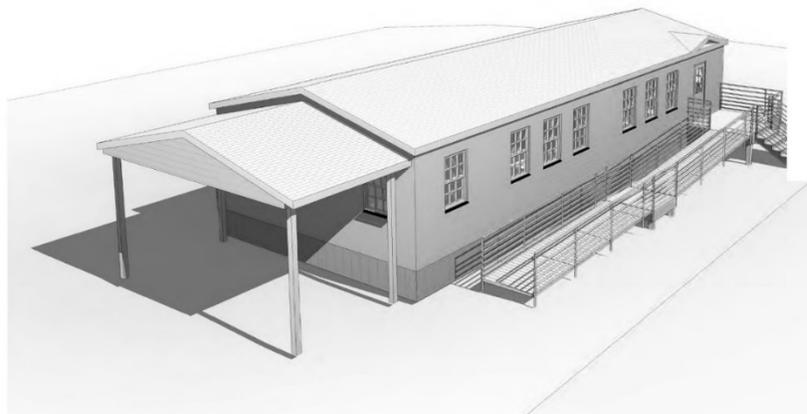


Figure 2 – Modular Building Example

The USDA initiated Section 106 consultation with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) to fulfil its National Historic Preservation Act responsibilities. The MHT concurred with a finding of no adverse impact for the project. The applicant prepared an environmental assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact. As this project is located in the environs, NCPC does not have independent Section 106 or NEPA responsibilities.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the final site and building plans for the new Wildlife Staff Office located on Beaver Dam Road, just east of Soil Conservation Road at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland.



Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

1/28/21

Date