



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
http://dnr.state.il.us

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

September 28, 2012

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**IHPA REVIEW**

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Ms. Anne Haaker  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
IHPA: Preservation Services Division  
Old State Capitol  
Springfield, Illinois 62701

OCT - 2 2012  
004100212  
Preservation Services

Dear Ms. Haaker:

Pursuant to the requirements of the State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requests the following categorical exemption from conducting archaeological surveys. These actions will have no effect on known historic properties.

For all projects wherein IDNR is either the consultant for land-management plans regarding vegetation or a participant through action or monetary support in the actual clearing or planting of vegetation on private or public lands and where the project fits one or more of the following descriptions, IDNR recommends the project be given a categorical exemption from the requirement for conducting archaeological survey. The category of exemption will be referred to as Vegetation Improvement and does not apply where there are known human remains or known archaeological sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, determined eligible for the Register, or determined potentially eligible for listing on the Register.

Description of projects meeting this exemption:

- Clearing, reseeding, or planting of woody or prairie vegetation on formerly cultivated ground as long as the action does not impact to the depth of previously undisturbed sediment.
- Clearing of vegetation in previously uncultivated pastures, wooded areas, or homesteads by hand or mechanical means on dry or frozen ground. Machinery must cause no subsurface impact nor disturbance of above ground structures or ruins.
- Clearing of vegetation by use of hand-held tools or mowing equipment that will have no subsurface impact with no restriction on ground conditions.
- Skidding of logs, except over known archaeological mounds, over marked burial plots, or through any cemetery.
- Burning of prairie or woodlands except where cemeteries are in danger of igniting.
- Planting of trees, saplings, or shrubs within an existing woods or pastures on forest or mixed-cover soils.

In accordance with the established procedures for coordination of Illinois Department of Natural Resources projects, IDNR requests the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer in the determination that the projects described are exempt from the requirement for conducting archaeological surveys when no previously recognized significant or potentially significant historic property is involved.

Sincerely,

Harold Hassen, Ph.D.  
Archaeologist  
Division of Ecosystems and Environment

**CONCUR**

By: Jane E. Haack  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Date: 10.9.12