



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 E. Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
Phone 360-619-7700  
Fax 360-619-7846

September 26, 2023

In Reply Refer To: HFL-17

Peter Brown  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
PO 201202  
Helena, MT 59620 - 1202

Re: Sun River Bridge Replacement Project, MT FLAP BOR 2980(1)  
Section 106 No Adverse Effect Recommendation and Section 4(f) *de minimis* Determination

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for the Montana State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) August 28, 2023 letter (SHPO FILE: FHWA-2023-2023082304) and meeting virtually on September 20, 2023 to discuss the Western Federal Lands Highway Division – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Sun River Bridge Replacement Project, MT FLAP BOR 2980(1).

As requested by the SHPO during our September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, I am providing the following:

1. Aerials (see enclosed) showing the locations of the proposed geotechnical borings including access routes along and across the river. All other borings will be accessed via existing roads. Equipment leveling pads could be needed at borings SR23-01, SR23-03, SR23-04, SR23-05 and SR23-06.
2. A commitment that the Sun River Bridge (24TT109), previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), will not be impacted by the proposed Sun River Bridge Replacement Project. Demolishing and removing the Sun River Bridge has been removed from the scope of the proposed project and the FHWA will not be pursuing an NRHP ineligibility determination for the bridge at this time. Demolishing and removing the Sun River Bridge could be a future Section 106 undertaking that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would be the federal lead for, but there are no plans for this undertaking.
3. Documentation (see enclosed) that Duane Reid, Little Shell Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, is comfortable with the proposed geotechnical borings scheduled for October 2, 2023. The FHWA will continue to consult with the Little Shell Tribe and will provide any Tribal consultation updates to the SHPO, including consultation with other Tribes.

Based on the previous information provided to the SHPO, revised scope of the project, details of the geotechnical borings and consultation with the Little Shell Tribe, the FHWA continues to recommend that the Sun River Bridge Replacement Project, MT FLAP BOR 2980(1), will result in **No Adverse Effect** and should proceed as planned. **The FHWA requests the SHPO's concurrence with this Section 106 finding of effect recommendation.**

The FHWA intends to still make a de minimis Section 4(f) impact determination according to 23 CFR § 774.5(b)(1)(ii) contingent upon the SHPO's concurrence with the FHWA's aforementioned No Adverse Effect recommendation.

I appreciate your attention to this request. If you have any questions, or should you require any additional information, please contact me at the above address, by phone at (360) 619-7636, or by e-mail at michael.schurke@dot.gov.

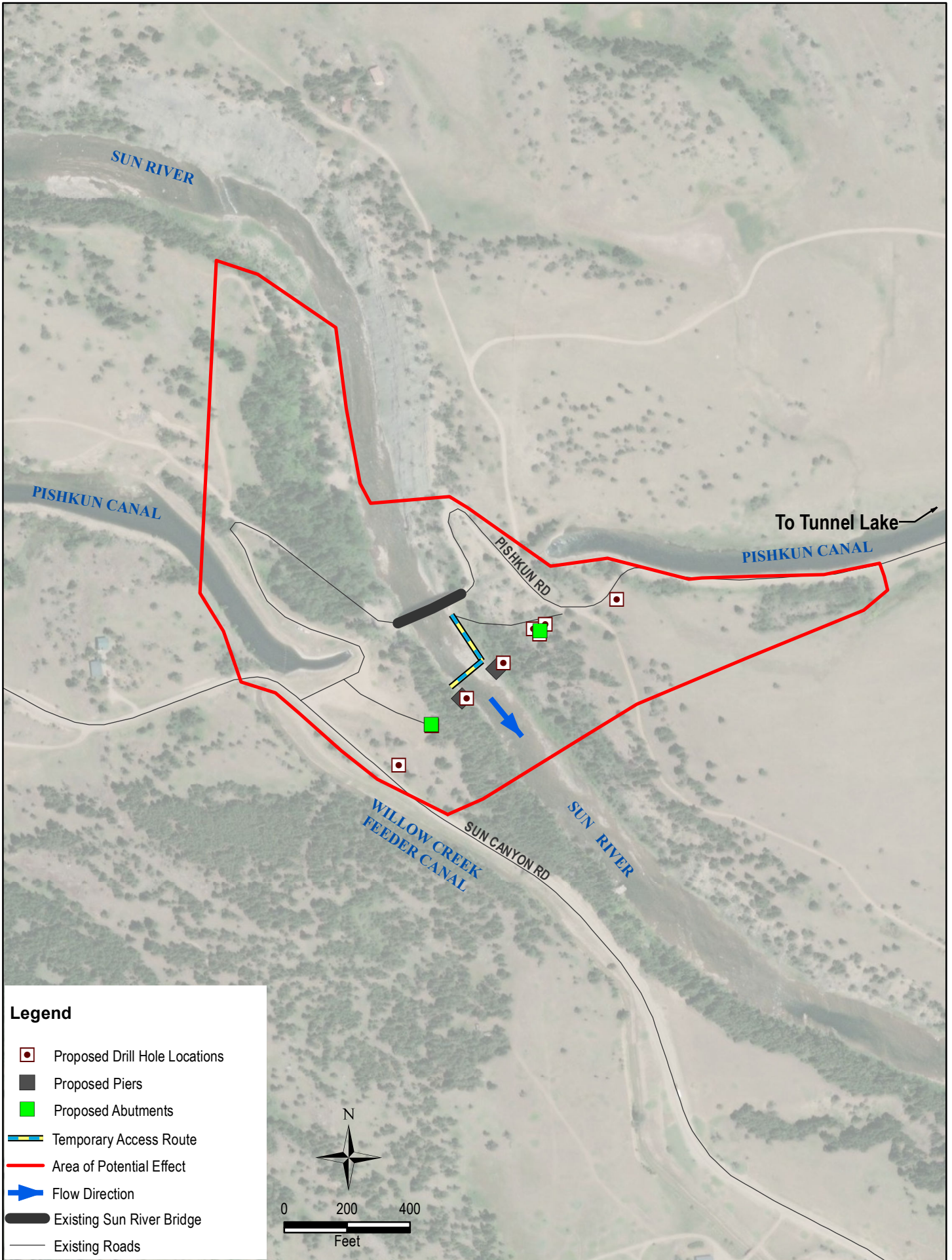
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Schurke", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style.









Michael Schurke, MA  
FHWA Archeologist

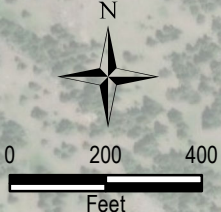
MCS  
Enclosures(3)

cc: Jennifer Chariarse, Senior Environmental Technical Specialist, FHWA  
Mike Traffalis, Project Manager, FHWA  
Rick Hanson, Area Archaeologist, BOR  
Arian Randall, Acting Forest Archaeologist and Heritage Program Manager, USFS  
Joshua Chase, Archaeologist, BLM



**Legend**

-  Proposed Drill Hole Locations
-  Proposed Piers
-  Proposed Abutments
-  Temporary Access Route
-  Area of Potential Effect
-  Flow Direction
-  Existing Sun River Bridge
-  Existing Roads





**From:** [Duane Reid](#)  
**To:** [Traffalis, Michael \(FHWA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Chariarse, Jennifer \(FHWA\)](#); [Schurke, Michael \(FHWA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sun River Bridge  
**Date:** Monday, September 25, 2023 6:50:11 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

After reviewing the pictures of the boring locations, I determined that no known Little Shell Tribe Cultural Resource can be detected. I am comfortable with drilling boring holes beginning on October 2, 2023.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Duane Reid MA  
LS THPO  
Little Shell Tribe  
511 Central Ave W  
Great Falls, Montana 59404  
Phone: 406-471-1329  
Fax: 406-315-2401  
[Email:duanereid451@gmail.com](mailto:duanereid451@gmail.com)

On Mon, Sep 25, 2023 at 10:41 AM [Michael.Traffalis@dot.gov](mailto:Michael.Traffalis@dot.gov) <[michael.traffalis@dot.gov](mailto:michael.traffalis@dot.gov)> wrote:



michael.traffalis@dot.gov sent you a secure message

[Access message](#)

*Hi Duane, Attached are photos of the boring locations. Also attached is a key map of boring location with photos file named after each borin..*



Attachments expire on Oct 25, 2023



### 8 images

Boring SR23-02.jpg, Boring SR23-01.jpg, Boring SR23-03.jpg, boring SR23-04.jpg, Boring SRSG23-07.jpg, Boring SR23-05.jpg, Sun River Bridge Boring Location Key Map.jpg, Boring SRSG23-08 (2).jpg



### 1 file

Boring SRSG23-08.JPG

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