Sustainability, Economy, and History

Suggested criteria for evaluating proposals with cultural and historical resources issues

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Outline

- Cultural resources are non-renewable resources
- Federal actions require evaluations for impacts to cultural resources
- Sustainable development includes heritage tourism
- Heritage tourism is a major economic driver
- Suggested criteria for project evaluations

What are cultural resources?

- Called "historic properties" under NHPA
 - Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
 [36 C.F.R. § 800.16.(l)(1)]

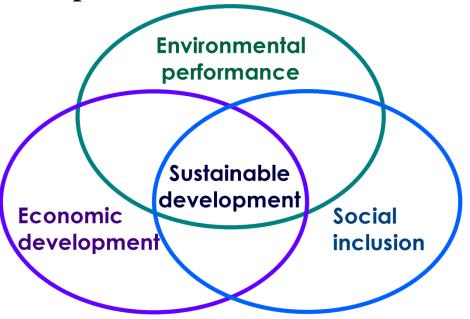
Placeholder for pictures of archaeological sites, historic buildings, etc.

RESTORE is a Federal action

- Federal actions trigger NEPA and NHPA processes
- Florida's SHPO will review projects for potential impacts to cultural resources
 - 30-day review period
 - Failure to comply with regulations can result in loss of funding

Sustainable Environments

 Sustainable environments are achieved when there are maximum positive impacts and minimal negative environmental, economic and social consequences from our developments



Sustainable Environments

- Cultural resources are as fragile and non-renewable as natural resources
- Protection of cultural resources is an important aspect of any sustainable development efforts

Placeholder for picture



Heritage Tourism as Economic Development

- What is "heritage tourism?"
 - Traveling to experience places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories of people past and present
- Focus is on the *whole place* not just one attraction
 - Learning history and culture through immersion
 - Enjoying the natural environment and the cultural and historic setting
 - Experiencing the unique aspects of a place, not that which can be found everywhere

Heritage Tourism as Economic Development

- Estimated that every 1000 tourists = 10 jobs₁
- Diversifies local economy₂
 - No "off season" to historical and cultural sites!

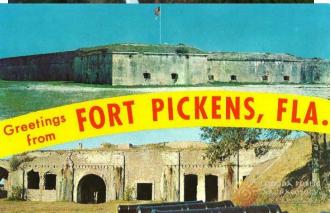




Intersection of Heritage Tourism and Sustainable Development

- Identifies and conserves cultural resources
- Accurately interprets and manages resources
- Provides authentic visitors experiences through understanding of impact of tourists on communities
- Stimulates and achieves revenues from cultural resources by protecting, marketing, and promoting them







Suggested Criteria

- Does applicant budget (in time and money) for regulatory cultural resources evaluations?
- Does the proposed project enhance cultural or historic resources?

Summary

- Sustainable environments maximize positive impacts and minimize negative effects of development
- Historic tourism is a major economic driver and fits within the ideals of sustainable development
- Federal actions require the identification of cultural resources like archaeological sites and historic districts
- RESTORE Act projects will have to be evaluated for impacts to cultural resources
- RESTORE Act projects can contribute positively to sustainable development through heritage tourism

Questions, please!

