

**Finding of No Significant Impact for  
The Kit Carson Monument  
Santa Fe, NM**

**LEAD AGENCY:** U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Greater Southwest Region

**ACTION:** Finding of No Significant Impact

**SUMMARY:**

Pursuant to the purpose defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ([42 United States Code \[USC\] 4321 et seq.](#)) the United States (U.S.) General Services Administration (GSA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze and document the potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Proposed Action, which is to address the damaged Kit Carson Monument at the Federal Oval in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

All discussions and findings related to the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative and other proposed Alternatives, and those Alternative(s) that GSA considered, but eliminated are presented in the attached Final EA and Appendices. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

On August 31, 2023, the Kit Carson Monument was substantially damaged through an act of vandalism. From December 2023 through July 2024, GSA held four (4) meetings to solicit comments from tribes, consulting parties and the public on possible treatments for the monument. GSA also conducted two studies to inform the development of options for the treatment of the monument. The Federal Oval Study, (awarded May 2024), was initiated to develop a complete site context that included indigenous history and pre-colonial history at this location. The Conservation Assessment, (awarded August 2024), was conducted to evaluate the physical feasibility of repair, relocation, and other action alternatives as described below.

GSA also conducted additional outreach and research in an attempt to identify additional potentially suitable alternatives for treatment of the damaged monument, reaching out to state and local historic preservation sites and groups. The result of these efforts, along with responses from the consulting party meetings, resulted in three (3) potential options for GSA to consider.

**A. PROPOSED ACTION:**

GSA's Proposed Action is to address the damaged monument, a sandstone obelisk on a limestone base that was added to the Federal Oval site in 1885. The preferred alternative is to remove and discard the sandstone portion of the Kit Carson Monument. The proposed project would leave the limestone base of the monument in place. The Federal Oval in Santa Fe, NM,

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includes two National Register properties owned by GSA (The Campos U.S. Courthouse and the Montoya Federal Building) and is also an archeologically sensitive site.

## **B. PURPOSE AND NEED:**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is for GSA to improve site conditions at the publicly accessible space outside of a federal courthouse in Santa Fe, NM. GSA seeks to address the monument in an appropriate manner while ensuring that the Federal Oval and the Campos Courthouse meets GSA standards for public buildings (as defined in [40 USC 3306 - Accommodating Federal Agencies](#), and [41 CFR Part 102-80, Real Property Facility Design and Management](#)) and serves the needs of the Judiciary by meeting the requirements of the U.S. Courts Design Guide, as amended in 2008 and 2016 (Judicial Conference of the United States 2021). Due to extensive damage, the monument no longer retains its historic qualities or structural integrity, rendering it unsuitable for preservation. The existing limestone base will be retained to protect any potential archeologically sensitive site concerns. Implementation of the Proposed Action is fiscally prudent, addressing the monument's irreversible damage will prevent potentially higher future maintenance and safety mitigation costs. The Proposed Action is also necessary to maintain the federal property's aesthetic and functional standards as outlined in federal regulations and ensure larger public safety. This measured approach reflects GSA's commitment to responsible stewardship of federal spaces, prioritizing public safety, accessibility, and the maintenance of high-quality federal property standards through fiscally responsible interventions.

## **C. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

GSA invited public participation in decision-making on this potential action through the NEPA process. From December 2023 through July 2024, GSA held four meetings to gather input from tribes and consulting parties on potential treatments for the monument. Public feedback was also invited via a virtual meeting and a Kit Carson Monument website created for information sharing. GSA published a Notice of Availability in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* on November 25, 2024 announcing the initiation of a 30-day comment period and the availability of a Draft EA. The Draft EA was available for public review and comment after publication of the Notice of Availability on GSA's web site. The public was invited to provide comments to GSA on the Draft EA during a 30- day comment period extending from December 1, 2024 to December 30, 2024. The Draft EA was available electronically on GSA's website and in print and the local library. GSA invited written comments to be submitted via mail or email throughout the 30-day period. A total of 22 unique commenters provided a total of 24 comments.

## **D. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

- *Option 1: No Action Alternative.* Under the No Action Alternative, GSA would leave the damaged monument in its current state and would not reconstruct or remove the remains of the monument, or add interpretation to the site. The ongoing deficiencies of the public area in front of the Campos courthouse would continue and would not

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sufficiently meet the needs of the General Services Administration or the U.S. District Court of New Mexico.

- *Option 2: Retain Onsite, with Interpretation.* The damaged monument would be retained, with tarp and security barriers removed. Appropriate interpretation could be added to the site.
- *Option 4b: Removal and Discard.* The sandstone portion of the damaged monument would be removed off site and destroyed. The limestone base would remain in place.

#### **E. MITIGATION MEASURES:**

The Final EA examined the potential effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative and determined the following would either not be affected or would sustain negligible impacts from the Proposed Action and not require further evaluation: biological resources, water resources, utilities, hazardous materials, soils, and geology, noise, air, traffic and transportation, and land use and zoning. The following resource areas were analyzed in more detail: visual resources and cultural resources. The impacts to these resources were found to be minor.

Based on the analysis contained in the Final EA, GSA determined that the preferred alternative, the proposed disassembly and removal of the Kit Carson Monument (Option 4b) and any of the three alternative proposed actions (Option 1 and Option 2) would not have significant adverse impacts on the human, natural, or cultural environments.

Under the No Action Alternative (Option 1), the Kit Carson Monument would remain in place in its deteriorated state on the Federal Oval, and existing conditions, to include the plywood barrier and protective tarpaulin, would remain unchanged. As such, implementation of the No Action Alternative would not result in any impacts to considered resource areas but would not meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. Therefore, no mitigation in these categories is required.

#### **F. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

GSA has completed the environmental review process for the proposed project and finds there is no significant impact to the quality of the human, natural, or cultural environment associated with the Proposed Action or any of the proposed alternatives at the Federal Oval. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Signed by:  
  
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4/8/2025

Jared Bradley  
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Public Buildings Service  
Greater Southwest Region  
General Services Administration