



CONSIDERING A POTENTIAL NSF INVESTMENT IN A NORTHERN HEMISPHERE EXTREMELY LARGE TELESCOPE

Proposed Action and Preliminary Alternatives

PROPOSED ACTION

NSF investment in the construction and operations of an Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) located in the Northern Hemisphere, which is a potential future funding action.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

- **No Action Alternative:** No NSF investment in the construction and operations of an ELT in the Northern Hemisphere
- **Action Alternative 1:** Investment in the construction and operations of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) (as the ELT in the Northern Hemisphere) located on Maunakea, Hawai'i Island, Hawaii
- **Action Alternative 2:** Investment in the construction and operations of TMT (as the ELT in the Northern Hemisphere) located on Maunakea, Hawai'i Island, Hawaii, with an NSF-facilitated plan to define and practice responsible astronomy in Hawaii in partnership with the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, the Maunakea Observatories, and the affected Hawaiian community
- **Action Alternative 3:** Investment in the construction and operations of TMT (as the ELT in the Northern Hemisphere) located on Roque de los Muchachos, La Palma, Canary Islands

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)?

NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the anticipated environmental impacts of proposed federal projects as part of their decision-making process, and to provide for appropriate public involvement.

NEPA SCOPING PROCESS

NSF intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental (including cultural) impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action under the No Action and Action Alternatives.

During the scoping phase, NSF is soliciting public comments to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including the identification of viable alternatives and the resources and issues to be analyzed in the EIS.

Preliminary Resources Considered for Analysis of Environmental Impacts

- Cultural Resources
- Visual Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Land Use
- Human Health and Safety
- Biological Resources
- Geological Resources
- Water Resources
- Hazardous Materials and Waste
- Traffic and Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Noise
- Air Quality and Climate Change

NSF will also engage in Section 106 consultation in coordination with the Environmental Impact Statement process.

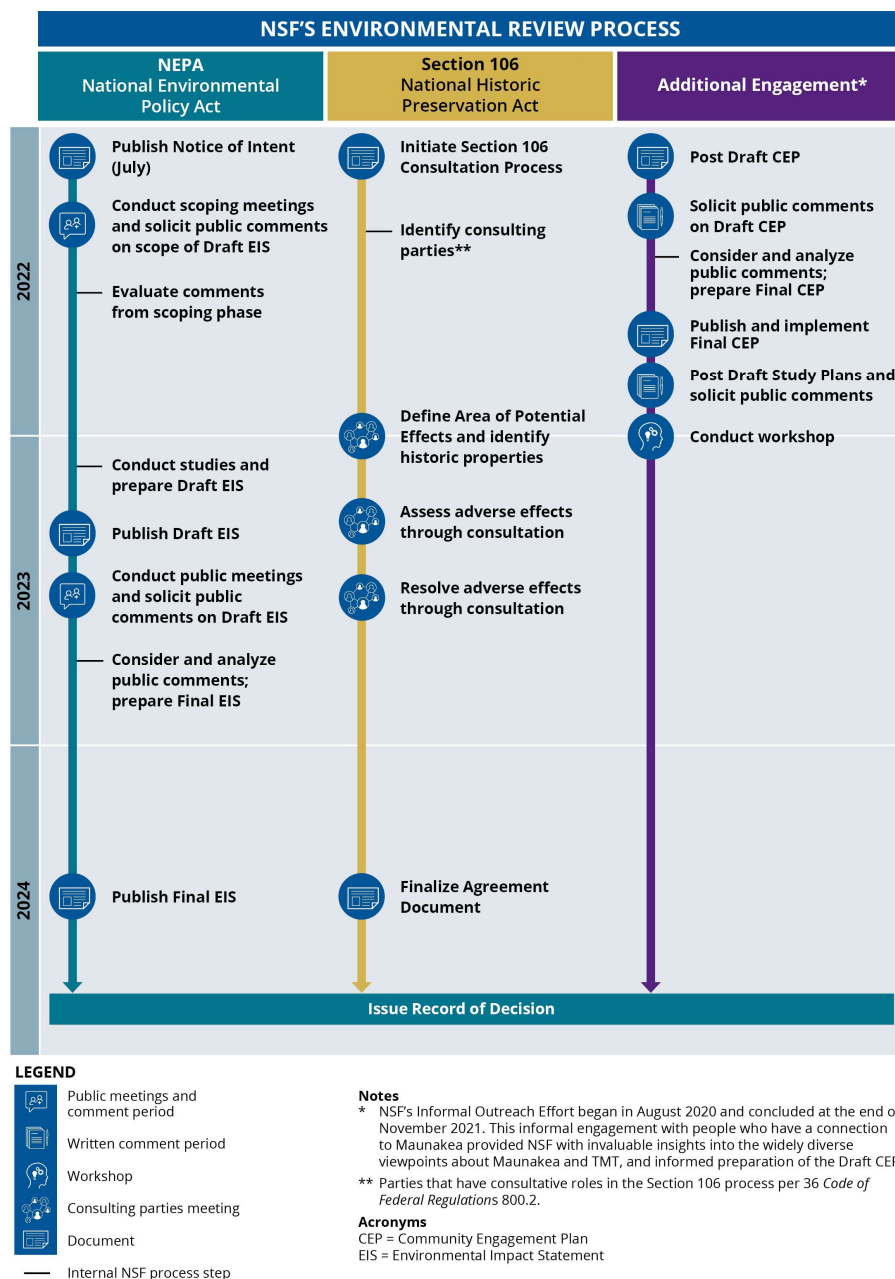
WHAT IS SECTION 106?

A process that seeks to accommodate historic preservation concerns with the needs of federal undertakings through consultation, commencing at the early stages of project planning.

Information regarding the Proposed Action will be posted throughout the EIS process at <https://beta.nsf.gov/tmt>. For further information regarding the EIS process, the Section 106 consultation process, or the Draft Community Engagement Plan please contact Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost at (703) 292-4907 or EIS.106.TMT@nsf.gov.



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NSF prepared a Draft Community Engagement Plan (Draft CEP) to help guide meaningful and effective engagement with the Hawaiian community and other interested members of the public during the environmental review process. NSF welcomes public input on the Draft CEP and will complete the Final CEP in late 2022.

The Draft CEP is available for public review at <https://beta.nsf.gov/tmt> and at the following libraries:

O'AHU

- James & Abigail Campbell Library, Kapolei
- Hawaii Kai Public Library, Honolulu

KAUA'I

- Lihue Public Library, Līhu'e
- Princeville Public Library, Princeville

MAUI

- Kihei Public Library, Kīhei

HAWAI'I

- Edwin H. Mo'okini Library, Hilo
- Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library, Kamuela
- Hilo Public Library, Hilo
- Pahala Public and School Library, Pāhala
- Kailua-Kona Public Library, Kailua-Kona

Ways to submit Scoping and Draft CEP comments to NSF by September 17, 2022:

- Complete a paper comment form during the public scoping meetings
- Provide your comments verbally during the public scoping meetings
- Submit a comment online via website <https://beta.nsf.gov/tmt>
- Mail your comments to Ms. Elizabeth Pentecost, RE: ELT National Science Foundation Room W9152, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314