

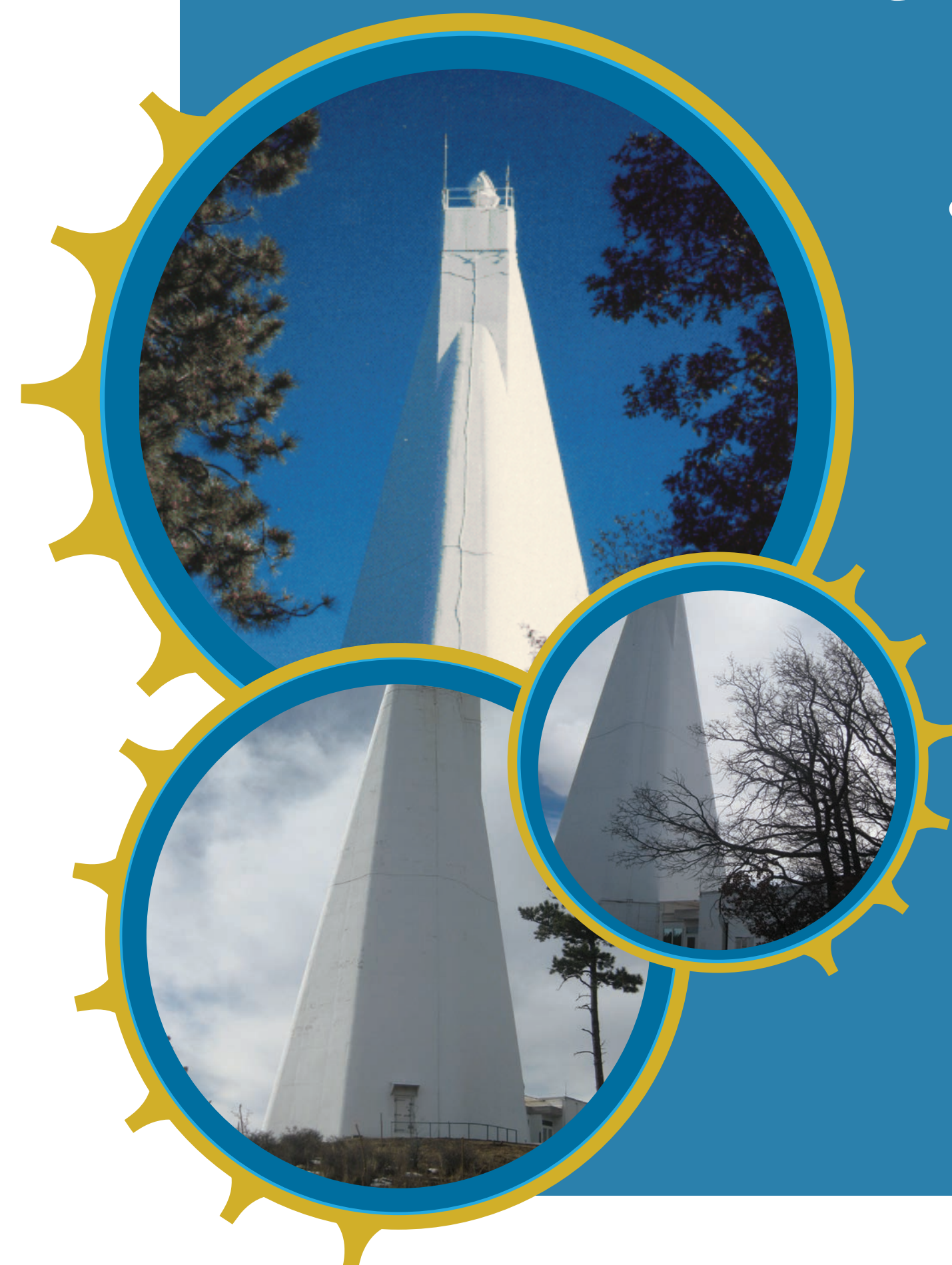


# Environmental Impact Statement and Section 106 Consultation for Proposed Changes to Sacramento Peak Observatory Operations

*Sunspot, New Mexico*

## Alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS include the following:

- Continued science- and education-focused operations by interested parties with reduced NSF funding
- Transition to partial operations by interested parties with reduced NSF funding
- Mothballing of facilities (suspension of operations in a manner such that operations could resume efficiently at some future date)
- Demolition and site restoration
- Continued NSF investment for science-focused operations (No-Action Alternative)



## Potential Resources considered:

An impact is a change or consequence that results from a proposed activity; it can be positive, negative or both. It may be mitigated to lessen or remove the impact. NSF has analyzed the following resource areas for potential impacts:

- cultural resources*
- biological resources*
- visual*
- geology and soils*
- hazardous materials*
- groundwater resources*
- socioeconomics*
- health and safety*
- solid waste generation*
- traffic and transportation*
- noise*
- environmental justice*

## Section 106 Process for the Sacramento Peak Observatory:

In coordination with the EIS, NSF is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and other Consulting Parties on adverse effects to historic properties located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

- NSF, SHPO, and the USFS agree that the APE encompasses the full Sacramento Peak Observatory property.
- Consultation will address adverse effects on the Sacramento Peak Observatory historic district, which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with 63 contributing resources. NSF will consult with the SHPO, ACHP, USFS, and other Consulting Parties on measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate those effects. A Programmatic Agreement is expected to be used to formalize such measures.
- A Section 106 Consulting Parties meeting is anticipated to occur in Spring 2018.