United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

APR 01 2011

Memorandum

To: Heather Boothe, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2011-007 Yellow Pine Information Sign Installation (34871)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Ensure that the timing of the installation does not coincide with tribal events taking place at the campground.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 34871.

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 03/15/2011

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2011-007 Yellow Pine Information Sign Installation
PEPC Project Number: 34871
Project Description:

This project will install an informational kiosk at Yellow Pine Volunteer Campground in order to provide timely information to volunteers using the campground, including up-to-date wildlife information and current fire activity.

Construction will be primarily of redwood with a cedar shake roof. The sign has been designed to be visually consistent with other existing rustic-style kiosks currently existing in the park, and will be built by volunteers and park staff. The sign will feature:

- a two foot by three foot vertical enclosed bulletin board;
- a one foot by two foot exposed message board;
- a brochure rack.

All of these features will be then attached to two four by six inch posts; each placed in a two foot deep by 20 inch diameter excavation The sign will be sited along the existing gravel campground access road. Exact sign placement will be determined by park staff depending on soil conditions.

Installation of the kiosk has been timed to avoid periods of tribal use of the campground.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigation:

- Ensure that the timing of the installation does not coincide with tribal events taking place at the campground.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Superintendent _____

Date 4/1/11

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 03/04/2011

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-007 Yellow Pine Information Sign Installation
PEPC Project Number: 34871
Project Type: Facility Maintenance (FM)
Project Location: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Heather Boothe

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Sign requires two holes that are two feet deep and 20 inches in diameter.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				The sign will provide information to the park volunteers and enhance their park experience.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Archeological District.

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes

2. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No

3. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No

4. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No

5. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? N/A

6. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? *(e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)* No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

Interdisciplinary Team	Field of Expertise
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Acting Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Joe Meyer	Acting Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Heather Boothe	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Barbara Wyatt	Historic Preservation Officer
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
Renea Kennec Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	3/15/11
Elexis D. Mayer Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	3/16/11
Randy Fong Acting Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	3/30/11

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
D L Neubacher Don L. Neubacher	4/1/11

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: March 15, 2011

PROJECT INFORMATION

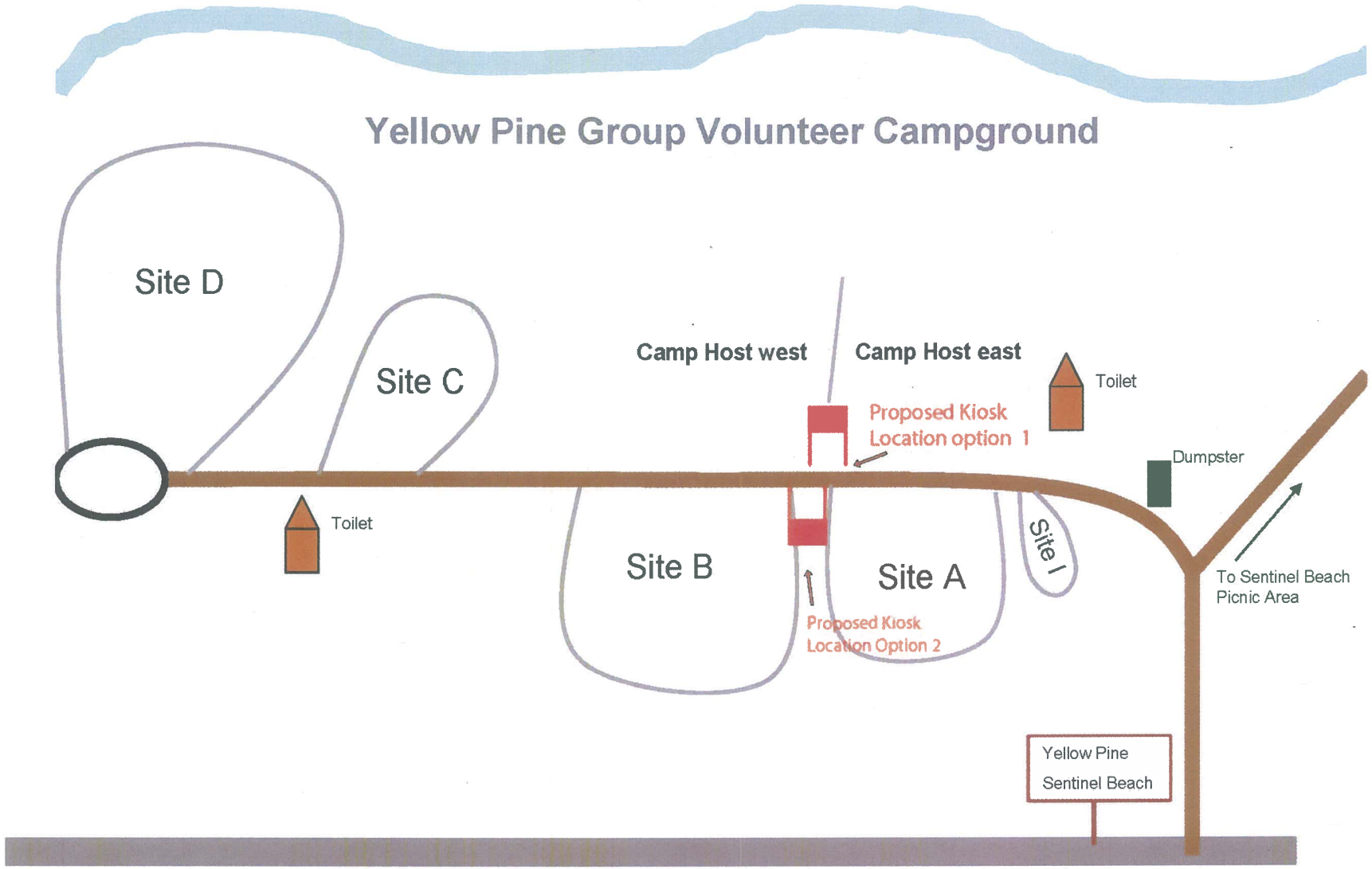
Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-007 Yellow Pine Information Sign Installation
PEPC Project Number: 34871
Project Type: Facility Maintenance (FM)
Project Location: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Heather Boothe

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Sign requires two holes that are two feet deep and 20 inches in diameter.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the river corridor)	Yes			Merced River.
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		

Example of existing signage of similar design



(Map not to scale)

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: 2011-007 Yellow Pine Information Sign Installation
b. Date Prepared: 03/04/2011
c. PEPC Project Number: 34871

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

___ No
_X_ Yes

Source or reference: Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District.

Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so
_X_ extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
No Replace historic features/elements in kind
No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
Yes Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
___ Other (please specify): _____

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park Historic Preservation Officer's review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 03/04/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]
Assessment of Effect: _X_ No Historic Properties Affected __ No Adverse Effect __ Adverse Effect __ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Jennifer Hardin
Date: 03/14/2011
Comments: No documented ethnographic resources impacted.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]
Assessment of Effect: _X_ No Historic Properties Affected __ No Adverse Effect __ Adverse Effect __ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Please ensure that the timing of the installation does not coincide with tribal events taking place at the campground.

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 02/23/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]
Assessment of Effect: __ No Historic Properties Affected _X_ No Adverse Effect __ Adverse Effect __ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

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C. PARK SECTION HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____No Historic Properties Affected ___X___ No Adverse Effect _____Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

[ ] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION
Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[ ] B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

[ ] C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.
Specify plan/EA/EIS:

[X] D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT
The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.
Specify: 1999 Programmatic Agreement

[ ] E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document
Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

[ ] F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

[ ] G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

[ ] H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions:

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- Ensure that the timing of the installation does not coincide with tribal events taking place at the campground.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer Barbara Wyatt

Date: 3-15-11

Signature of Superintendent D J Vanbael

Date: 5/4/11