



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Memorandum

To: Jim Vandenberg

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-040 Badger Pass Badger Lift Replacement (25195)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action 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 all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure that an Aviation Safety Plan is in place prior to beginning any project work.

//James F. Hammet// (acting)
David V. Uberuaga

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: **2009-040 Badger Pass Badger Lift Replacement**

PEPC ID: **25195**

Project Description: This project is located at the Badger Pass Ski Resort operated by Delaware North Company Parks and Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) in Yosemite National Park. The purpose of this project is to replace in-kind the Badger Chair Lift in its current location/foot print on the Badger slope by using the existing tower foundations (6 - total). Replacement will insure safe operation during aerial lift transport of visitors and staff. Rehabilitation of the existing lift is not an option as the major components for this model and year of lift are now obsolete. A replacement of the existing ski lift with a newly designed aerial tramway is necessary to access to the Badger slope. The number of chairs, occupancy per chair and the capacity of the lift will remain the same as the existing lift. Currently there are 41 double chairs with a capacity of 1200 passengers per hour. The new lift is a "Sprint" model by Doppelmayr-CTEC designed for a slope and profile matching the existing conditions located on the Badger ski run. The manufacturer's specification sheet is available for review in the internal documents tab. The project includes the demolition of the existing aerial tramway, including tower removal and replacement.

A condition assessment (CA) was performed by Jewett Engineering LTD, dated July 7, 2008, which identified deficiencies and a recommendation to replace the lift. The report found that the Badger Lift is at or near the end of its economic and mechanical useful life. The CA recommends that the lift be replaced rather than rehabilitated, and that the cost of improvements to the lift could exceed the cost of replacement.

DNC will work with the Division of Resources Management and Science to insure a vegetation protection plan is in place before work commences. Badger Ski lift access road is immediately adjacent to tramway equipment and meadow access will not be necessary. Vehicles will access the mounded area around the perimeter of the bottom station to perform demolition and installation. Vehicles will travel to the top of Badger Pass on the existing seasonal access roads.

All construction vehicles will adhere to Division 1 Specifications regarding noxious weeds and be inspected by NPS officials prior to entering Yosemite National Park. Construction equipment will drive to the base of the Badger Lift and the top of the Badger Lift on existing roadways. Some roadway grading may be necessary to accommodate the crane; however, the existing roadway will not be expanded or widened.

Helicopter support will be utilized for the removal and installation of lift towers. Helicopter support for up to two days will be needed to accomplish this work. DNC will work with the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire and implement an aviation safety plan before work commences. DNC and the contractor will submit a Flight Request and Notification Plan to the NPS prior to entering the park. The helicopter will be utilized for approximately two days and will arrive and exit the park according to an NPS

approved flight plan (which requires that helicopters use airspace over roadways within the park wherever possible). The helicopter will land in the established Landing Zone at Badger Pass (top of Bruin or upper parking lot). All communications pertaining to the helicopter use will be coordinated with NPS aviation staff and NPS dispatch by DNC.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure that an Aviation Safety Plan is in place prior to beginning any project work.

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.3. Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds, and trails.

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.

Acting Park Superintendent //J. Hammett//

Date: 7/7/09

The signed original of document is on file at Environmental Planning



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)
DO-12 APPENDIX 1**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 DM revisions and proposed DO-12 changes

Today's Date: **June 16, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **05/28/2009**

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2009-040 Badger Pass Badger Lift Replacement**

PEPC Project Number: **25195**

Project Type: **Facility Maintenance (FM)**

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California** District: **Badger Pass**

Project Leader: **Jim Vandenberg**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is located at the Badger Pass Ski Resort operated by Delaware North Company Parks and Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) in Yosemite National Park. The purpose of this project is to replace in-kind the Badger Chair Lift in its current location/foot print on the Badger slope by using the existing tower foundations (6 - total). Replacement will insure safe operation during aerial lift transport of visitors and staff. Rehabilitation of the existing lift is not an option as the major components for this model and year of lift are now obsolete. A replacement of the existing ski lift with a newly designed aerial tramway is necessary to access to the Badger slope. The number of chairs, occupancy per chair and the capacity of the lift will remain the same as the existing lift. Currently there are 41 double chairs with a capacity of 1200 passengers per hour. The new lift is a "Sprint" model by Doppelmayr-CTEC designed for a slope and profile matching the existing conditions located on the Badger ski run. The manufacturer's specification sheet is available for review in the internal documents tab. The project includes the demolition of the existing aerial tramway, including tower removal and replacement.

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All construction vehicles will adhere to Division 1 Specifications regarding noxious weeds and be inspected by NPS officials prior to entering Yosemite National Park. Construction equipment will drive to the base of the Badger Lift and the top of the Badger Lift on existing roadways. Some roadway grading

may be necessary to accommodate the crane; however, the existing roadway will not be expanded or widened.

Helicopter support will be utilized for the removal and installation of lift towers. Helicopter support for up to two days will be needed to accomplish this work. DNC will work with the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire and implement an aviation safety plan before work commences. DNC and the contractor will submit a Flight Request and Notification Plan to the NPS prior to entering the park. The helicopter will be utilized for approximately two days and will arrive and exit the park according to an NPS approved flight plan (which requires that helicopters use airspace over roadways within the park wherever possible). The helicopter will land in the established Landing Zone at Badger Pass (top of Bruin or upper parking lot). All communications pertaining to the helicopter use will be coordinated with NPS aviation staff and NPS dispatch by DNC.

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

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

C. 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.		X			There will be minimal ground disturbance during the removal of the engine house and bull wheel.
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality		X			In order to replace the aerial tramway there needs to be helicopter support for two days. There will be temporary dust created by the helicopter use.
4. Soundscapes		X			A helicopter will be utilized for two days during the placement of the ski lift. Usual helicopter noises are associated with this project.
5. Water quality or quantity	X				
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or	X				

wetlands					
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	X				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	X				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X			See Comment 1, below.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				This project enhances the visitor experience by providing a safe, modern ski lift.
18. Archeological resources	X				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	X				
20. Cultural landscapes	X				No known cultural resources affected.
21. Ethnographic resources	X				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				

24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

Comments:

1. Ensure all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native species, as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.

D. 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?		X		
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?		X		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning		X		

alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?				
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
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?		X		
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?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
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)?		X		
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)?		X		

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.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**

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

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

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**

F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Jim Hammett	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Michael Pieper	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance
Jeannette Simons	Program Manager
Renea Kennec	NHPA Specialist
	NEPA Specialist

G. 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
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>6/22/09</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>6/29/09</u>
<u>//Mark Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>6/30/09</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u> //James F. Hammett// </u> David V. Uberuaga	<u> 7/7/09 </u>

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **June 16, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 25195

Project Type: Facility Maintenance (FM)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: Badger Pass

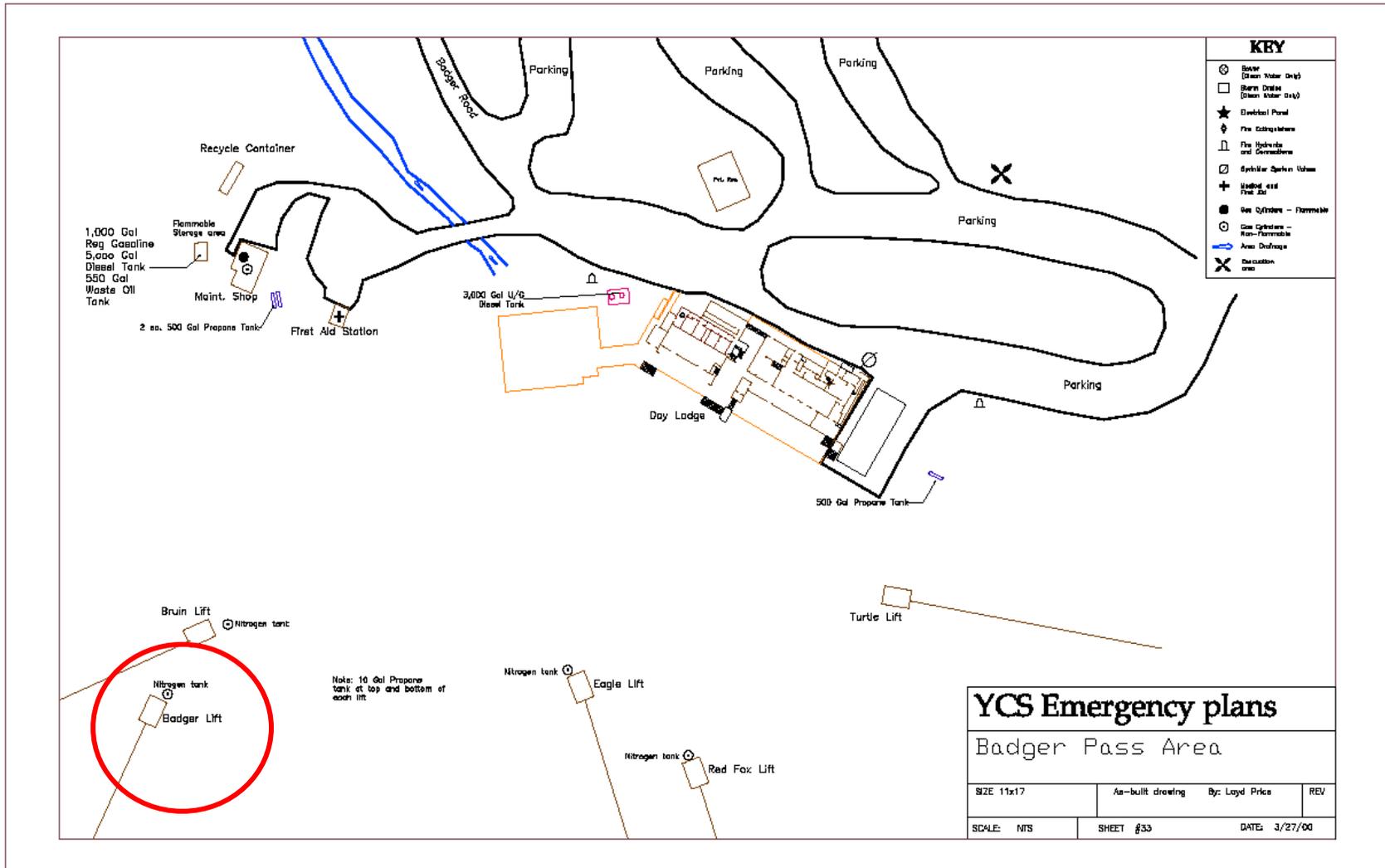
Project Manager: Jim Vandenberg

Project Title: 2009-040 Badger Pass Badger Lift Replacement

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
2. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
4. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
5. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
6.NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			There will be minimal ground disturbance around the existing foundation during the removal of the engine house and bullwheel. Existing foundations will be utilized in the lift upgrade.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	X			
10. Has a National Register form been completed?			X	
11. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?			X	
12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		X		
14. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		X		
15. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		X		

16. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	
17. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	
18. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?		X		
19. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
20. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
21. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		X		
22. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		X		
100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
101. Within designated Wilderness?		X		
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	X			The Badger Pass Ski Area is in a potential wilderness addition. It has been determined that no Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis is required.





SPRINT

**light-duty drive and tension drive terminals
- doubles, triples, and quads**



The SPRINT light-duty drive and tension drive terminals, when combined with either the Eclipse or Pegasus return terminals, creates a smooth running, economical system that fits the needs of beginner and intermediate terrain requirements. The Doppelmayr CTEC SPRINT fixed grip drive terminals are known especially for their time-proven technology, long service life, ultra low maintenance and high capacities.





ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: **Yosemite NP** Park District: **Badger Pass**

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: **2009-040 Badger Pass Badger Lift Replacement** Date: **June 16, 2009** PEPC
Project ID Number: **25195**

b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c])

This project is located at the Badger Pass Ski Resort operated by Delaware North Company Parks and Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) in Yosemite National Park. The purpose of this project is to replace in-kind the Badger Chair Lift in its current location/foot print on the Badger slope by using the existing tower foundations (6 - total). Replacement will insure safe operation during aerial lift transport of visitors and staff. Rehabilitation of the existing lift is not an option as the major components for this model and year of lift are now obsolete. A replacement of the existing ski lift with a newly designed aerial tramway is necessary to access to the Badger slope. The number of chairs, occupancy per chair and the capacity of the lift will remain the same as the existing lift. Currently there are 41 double chairs with a capacity of 1200 passengers per hour. The new lift is a "Sprint" model by Doppelmayr-CTEC designed for a slope and profile matching the existing conditions located on the Badger ski run. The manufacturer's specification sheet is available for review in the internal documents tab. The project includes the demolition of the existing aerial tramway, including tower removal and replacement.

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

No
 Yes, Source or reference: **Badger Pass Ski Area**

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 extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s): **None**

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

No 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)

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

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

7. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments:

Maps Archeological survey, if applicable Drawings Specifications Photographs
 Scope of Work Site plan List of Materials Samples Other:

Prepared by: **Jeannette Simons** Date: **June 16, 2009** Title: **Historic Preservation Officer** Telephone: **209-379-1372**

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[] Archeologist
Name: **Laura Kirn**
Date: **05/05/2009**
Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: 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)]**

[] Historical Architect
Name: **Sueann Brown**
Date: **06/09/2009**
Comments:

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

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

[] Anthropologist
Name: **Jeannette Simons**
Date: **06/15/2009**
Comments: **American Indian Liaison. Vegetation resources will be protected by RMS plan.**

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

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **David Humphrey**

Date: **04/29/2009**

Comments: **None.**

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect
 Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: **None.**

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

No Reviews From: **Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor**

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

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: _____

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: _____

[] E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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. STIPULATIONS/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.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer _____ *//Jeanette Simons//* _____

Date: _____ *6/24/09* _____

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 Acting Superintendent _____ *//James F. Hammett//* _____

Date: _____ *7/7/09* _____

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and