



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:** David Engelstad, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-014 Crane Flat Water System Replacement Phase 2 (40300)

The Executive Leadership 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.
- Native American cultural monitoring is required during all ground disturbing work.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 40300.

//Don L. Neubacher//  
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

*The signed original of this document is on file at the  
Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*

cc: Statutory Compliance File



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/12/2012

## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2010-014 Crane Flat Water System Replacement Phase 2

**PEPC Project Number:** 40300

**Project Description:**

A Value Analysis on the replacement of the Crane Flat water system was conducted on January 6, 2009. Because the existing alignments are crossing sensitive natural resources (wetlands and wilderness area), it was decided to reroute the new alignment out of the wetlands and wilderness area to previously disturbed roadways, thus improving efficiency in operating and maintaining the system. This will allow the slurry-fill abandonment of the existing water mains that are in wetland/meadow areas so the piping does not act as conduits, thus disrupting the natural flow of water in the wetlands/meadows. Slurry-filling provides a cost savings when compared to the removal of abandoned lines and digging up the meadows/wilderness. It was also decided the existing water lines within the roadways would be abandoned in place, with the exception of lines crossing wetland areas being slurry-filled. This also provides a cost savings by not having to excavate and repave roadways.

Phase 1 was completed in the summer of 2010. Phase 1 installed new 6 and 8 inch water mains under the Crane Flat Campground roads and new service lines to the five campground comfort stations. Phase 1 also installed an 8 inch water main under Big Oak Flat Road to the Tioga Road intersection, near the gas station.

This Phase 2 will continue from the intersection of Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road with the installation of a 10 inch water main under Tioga Road to the existing 50,000 gallon water storage tank. Phase 2 will also provide new water service lines to the gas station, ranger residence duplex, ranger station, and Yosemite Institute Campus. This replacement system will provide approximate 1,300 gallons per minute (gpm) of fire flow protection at the Crane Flat Gas Station. If project funding allows, a 1,000 foot deep test well will be drilled near the existing well OW-1, just off the trail going to Tuolumne Grove. A groundwater consultant studied the Crane Flat area in June, 2011 on the feasibility of drilling a deep hard rock well. This study recommended drilling to at least 1,000 feet in the area near Well OW-1. If this test well is capable of producing 10 to 15 gpm, the park will consider this as a future water source for the Crane Flat area, thus abandoning the existing source, Doghouse Meadow Well.

**Project Locations:**

Tuolumne 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.
- Native American cultural monitoring is required during all ground disturbing 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.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

**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** //Don L. Neubacher//

**Date** 4/16/12

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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/12/2012

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 04/12/2012

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:** 2010-014 Crane Flat Water System Replacement Phase 2  
**PEPC Project Number:** 40300  
**Project Type:** Facility Rehabilitation (FR)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Tuolumne, California **District, Section:** Crane Flat,  
**Project Leader:** David Engelstad

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			Utility line will be dug five feet deep and three feet wide. Installation of the well includes 8 inches in diameter and 1,000 feet deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			The duration of this project is approximately six months; there will be temporary air emissions from dust and construction equipment.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Noise impacts will be temporary and negligible; limited to construction equipment.

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
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		Negligible			Great Grey Owl, mitigation measures are in place to avoid impacts.
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		Negligible			
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			There will be impacts to traffic flow; a traffic management plan has been developed.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Crane Flat Archeological District
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources		Negligible			Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.
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	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
or policies					
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		Negligible			Upgrading the water system has a beneficial impact to the meadows because the water line will now be located within the road prism.
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

### **C. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
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		



Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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		
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		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?				
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		Vehicles will be inspected for non-native plants and animals prior to entering the park.

#### D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes
- 3.A. Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? Yes
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes
5. 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

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	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
David Engelstad	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
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
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>4/12/12</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>4/12/12</u>
<u>Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>4/12/12</u>

### Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>4/16/12</u>

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Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/12/2012

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: April 12, 2012

### PROJECT INFORMATION

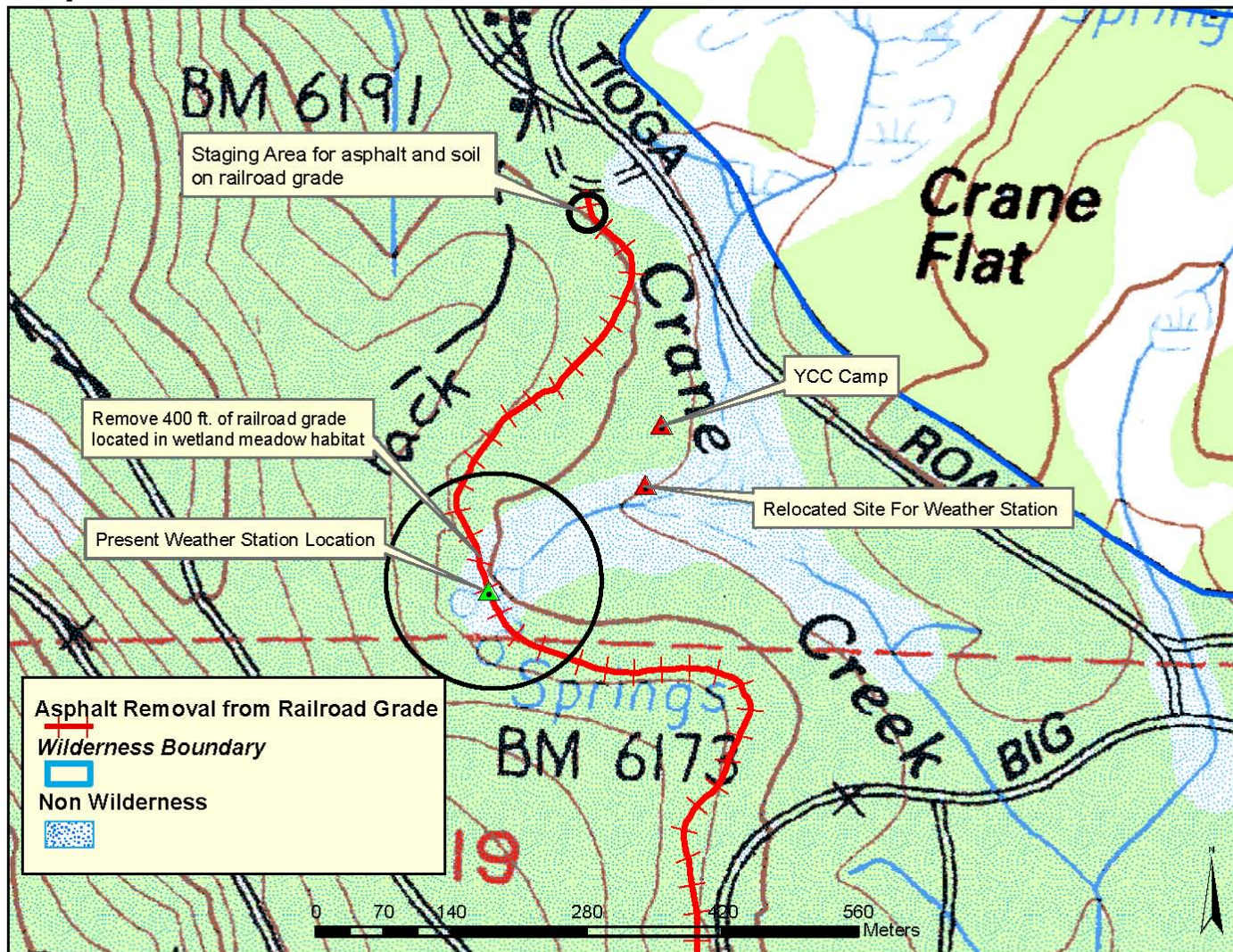
**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-014 Crane Flat Water System Replacement Phase 2  
**PEPC Project Number:** 40300  
**Project Type:** Facility Rehabilitation (FR)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Tuolumne, California **District:** Crane Flat  
**Project Leader:** David Engelstad

### 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)?	Yes			Great Grey Owl, mitigation measures are in place to avoid impacts.
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			Utility line will be dug five feet deep and three feet wide. Installation of the well includes 8 inches in diameter and 1,000 feet deep.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Archeological monitoring required during ground disturbance. Other resource protection measures will be identified as stipulations once final project design is available. Continue working with project archeologist to implement measures for avoiding adverse effects.

Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?		No		
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
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?			N/A	
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?			N/A	
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		

## Improve Forest And Meadow Habitat At Crane Flat



Victor Goldman:Resources Management and Sciences Division Yosemite National Park Service

U:\Old EP Resources Data\gisdata\Crane Flat Railroad Grade





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 04/12/2012

# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** 2010-014 Crane Flat Water System Replacement Phase 2

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 04/12/2012 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 40300

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference: Crane Flat Archeological District; Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property

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:

#### Archeological resources affected:

**Name and numbers:** Crane Flat Archeological District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

#### Ethnographic resources affected:

**Name and number:** Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property

**NR status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

### 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)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric)  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ 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  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting,  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or  
 No \_\_\_\_\_ structures)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please  
 \_\_\_\_\_ specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Supporting Study Data:

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

## 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:

---

[ X ] Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 02/01/2012

*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: Archeological monitoring required during ground disturbance. Other resource protection measures will be identified as stipulations once final project design is available. Continue working with Project Archeologist Scott Jackson to implement measures for avoiding adverse effects.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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[ X ] Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 03/09/2012

Comments: Native American cultural monitoring is required during all ground disturbing work. AICMC and TBMI will split monitoring responsibilities.

*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: Native American cultural monitoring is required during all ground disturbing work. AICMC and TBMI will split monitoring responsibilities.

Doc Method: Stipulations/Conditions

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☒ Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: David Humphrey  
Date: 02/10/2012  
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

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

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## **C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. Assessment of Effect:**

<input type="checkbox"/> No Historic Properties Affected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Adverse Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Adverse Effect
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### **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:

☒ 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.)

- Native American cultural monitoring is required during all ground disturbing work.

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Acting Historic Preservation Officer**

//Kimball Koch//

Kimball Koch

**Date:** 4/12/12

**E. 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.**

**Superintendent:** //Don L. Neubacher//

Don Neubacher

**Date:** 4/16/12

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