



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: Jesse McGahey, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2011-026 Park-wide Programmatic Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event (37691)

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:

- No mitigations identified.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 37691.

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

Enclosure (with attachments)
cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2011-026 Park-wide Programmatic Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event

PEPC Project Number: 37691

Project Description:

Project Background

The annual “Yosemite Facelift” is a volunteer-based, park wide trash removal and restoration event corresponding with National Public Lands Day (NPLD). The project is sponsored by the Yosemite Climbing Association (YCA), a non-profit organization. After seven years of successful Facelift Events we are seeking a five-year Programmatic Categorical Exclusion for the Annual Yosemite Facelift.

First initiated in 2003 by the Yosemite climbing community, the Facelift has grown into a hugely successful, family oriented, park-wide annual event. Starting in 2011 the event will be an official NPS event supported by all divisions. Yosemite Climbing Association, the event sponsor, will maintain a central role in the planning and operations of the event.

The event is one of the premier NPLD events with up to 2,945 volunteers in 2007 contributing 18,335 hours (estimated value over of \$366,000), and collected up to 42,330 pounds. The Facelift organizers would like to see the weight metrics gradually decrease as a sign of the long-term success of the event. The anticipated number of total volunteer days for each year over the course of the 5 day event is approximately 2,000-2,500. During the 2010 Facelift 982 unique VIPs contributed 7568 hours or 1573 “volunteer days”, and removed about 170,000 lbs. trash (most of the weight coming from concrete and asphalt designated for removal).

This compliance package will cover all aspects of the Facelift operations that will essentially remain unchanged year to year. Most of event volunteers are park visitors that sign-up spontaneously and will primarily be directed to focus on road corridors and pullouts, day-use areas, campgrounds and lodging areas, hiking trails and climbing routes. Emphasis will be placed on working from the periphery of the park boundary and working towards Yosemite Valley as the event progresses. Road corridors will be cleaned during the week to avoid weekend traffic.

- **“Special Projects,”** named because of complexity or size of restoration or clean-up projects at predetermined locations, require more intensive coordination and will have NPS staff oversight. Compliance for these projects will be covered each year in separate CE proposals.

The Facelift will continue to improve educational components to encourage volunteer stewardship of cultural and natural resources both in National Parks and in the volunteer’s home areas. The check-in registration process will be consistent for all volunteers. Each volunteer must sign-up each day worked at the event registration center located in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Tuolumne Store Parking Area, and Wawona. The registration centers will be open from 8am to 5pm each day of the event.

- The check-in and registration process begins with each participant filling out required volunteer program forms. From there, volunteers will travel through resource education stations with interactive displays and have verbal contact with NPS staff.
- Event coordinators will work with each volunteer to identify the areas to be canvassed. In some cases, a geographical area or section of roadway will have an assigned group leader that has received resource education training and will accompany the group. (See cultural resources section below.)
- The final stage of the check-in and registration process is the safety and equipment pick-up area where all volunteers will have contact with a safety officer, prior to receiving gloves, vest, and trash bags (or trash buckets).
- After returning for weighing and recycling collected materials, each volunteer receives one raffle ticket for each day worked. There will be daily raffles conducted by YCA from prizes donated by various retailers, vendors, and non-profits. On the last day of the event (Sunday) a reception will be held in the Yosemite Valley East Auditorium; serving dinner and beverages to up to 400 people. All evening programs will be addressed in YCA's special use permit for the event.

Cultural and Archaeological Resource Education Program

- The Facelift planning team realizes that the nature of the Facelift event poses a threat to cultural resources and specifically historic artifacts. Therefore we are working closely with the Anthropology and Archeology Branch to minimize and hopefully eliminate impacts. A strong cultural resource education program will be provided to public volunteers and park staff involved in the Facelift project. The following procedures will be implemented during and before the Facelift.
- Supervisors of special projects will be made aware of cultural resource issues within their project areas and receive cultural resource education. This will include daily archeology briefings and involvement in site monitoring and condition assessments. In addition, we will provide all volunteers that are interested in learning more about historic and cultural resources with a half day cultural resource training. These volunteers will lead roadside clean-up crews and be responsible to identify and GPS potential historic artifacts.
- After the check-in and registration process, volunteers will be required to go through a cultural resource education station. Here volunteers will speak with NPS archeology staff, interact with cultural resource displays, and receive historic resource identification guides. In addition, qualified staff will direct volunteers to specific areas to clean-up and away from culturally sensitive locations.
- A large map will be displayed at this station which will be marked with the designated clean-up location of each volunteer group. Maps will also show volunteers areas where they must avoid collecting trash. In some cases, a group leader with resource education training will accompany volunteers working in potentially sensitive areas.

- After clean-up volunteers will return to the registration centers where trash will be weighed and separated for recyclables. Additionally, all trash (except that with human waste) collected by volunteers will be sorted by trained archeologists to identify any cultural resources. Volunteers will remain for trash sorting in order to find locations of inadvertently removed historic objects. Any cultural resources will be documented and collected for curation or documented and discarded according to research potential.
- Prior to the event, comprehensive cultural resource assessments for areas of potential effect, including special project areas and high-use areas, such as road, trail, and river corridors will be conducted. Assessments will include records searches (of associated historical references, site and survey databases, and cultural resource reports), archeological survey, inventory, documentation, and monitoring (where necessary), consultation with interested parties, and prescription of treatment recommendations for resource protection (such as avoidance, monitoring, volunteer stewardship, and education).
- Yosemite's Branch of Anthropology and Archeology will work with the compliance office to develop an inadvertent discovery plan to amend Yosemite's existing Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA
 Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- No mitigations identified.

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):

E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

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 9/20/11

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 09/09/2011

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: 2011-026 Park-wide Programmatic Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event
PEPC Project Number: 37691
Project Type: Volunteer clean-up and restoration (OTHER)
Project Location:
 County, State: Mariposa, California
 County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Jesse McGahey

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.	No				
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or	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
estuarine resources					
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				

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
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				Visitor experience will be enhanced by a litter-free park.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Park will follow education and treatment measures outlined in the annual FaceLift Archeology reports. Any unexpected impacts to known resources, or impacts to previously undocumented resources, will be addressed per the 1999 PA.
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	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
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	No				
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		Mitigated; consultation with park staff will occur prior to and during the event.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?				
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 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		

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? Yes, park Archeology and Visitor Protection staff.
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? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes, in accordance with the park Programmatic Agreement.
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
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Dale St. Vincent	Acting 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
Jesse McGahey	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Barbara Wyatt	Historic Preservation Officer
Renea Kennece	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>9/19/11</u>
<u>//Elexis J. Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>9/20/11</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>9/20/11</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>9/20/11</u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: September 9, 2011

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-026 Park-wide Programmatic Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event
PEPC Project Number: 37691
Project Type: Volunteer clean-up and restoration (OTHER)
Project Location:
 County, State: Mariposa, California
 County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Jesse McGahey

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?		No		
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			The Parkwide Facelift Programmatic is implemented throughout the park.
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?	Yes			Merced and Tuolumne Rivers.
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?	Yes			
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		



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2011-026 Park-wide Programmatic Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 09/09/2011

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 37691

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

County, State: Tuolumne, CA

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

No

Yes

Source or reference: **Consultation with park staff will occur prior to and during the event.**

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):

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)

No 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): _____

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: 09/19/2011

Comments: Park will follow education and treatment measures outlined in the annual FaceLift Archeology reports. Any unexpected impacts to known resources, or impacts to previously undocumented resources, will be addressed per the 1999 PA.

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

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 09/19/2011

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

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 09/19/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]

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

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'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:

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.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Signature

**Acting
Historic
Preservation**

Officer: //Elexis J. Mayer// **Date:** 9/20/11
Elexis Mayer

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.

Signature

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher **Date:** 9/20/11
Don Neubacher

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Yosemite National Park.*