



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:** Heather McKenny  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2012-032 Summit Meadow Fence Installation (42639)

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:

- No mitigations identified.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 42639.

//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:** 2012-032 Summit Meadow Fence Installation

**PEPC Project Number:** 42639

**Project Description:**

This project will result in the installation of a 300 foot long, stacked four rail fence along the edge of Summit Meadow to the south of Glacier Point Road. Summit Meadow south of Glacier Point Road has been identified as a sensitive area harboring a special status species. The fence will be installed to provide a visual barrier that will aid in the closure of Summit Meadow south of Glacier Point Road. The meadow was closed April 19, 2012 by order of the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park and under authority of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.5(a) and Section (a)(1). The meadow is closed annually to public access, beginning at the time of Glacier Point Road opening, and remaining in effect until the road closes, or until further notice. Summit Meadow north of Glacier Point Road is not affected by this closure. The park will replace the temporary sandwich boards currently implementing the closure with a more effective and visually appealing fence as soon as practical.

The fence will be installed through the trees directly adjacent to the meadow, starting at road just to the west of the vault toilet and ending at the road just to the east of the parking lot. This will allow visitors to access the forested upland for picnicking and viewing the meadow. Signs reading "Don't be a meadow stomper", with a picture of a boot about to step on a plant, will be posted along the fence. The fence will be composed of 10 foot long cedar split rails stacked four high with a 36 inch high top rail. Rebar will be used to secure the fence at the intersections. The stacked four rail fence design was chosen because:

- it meets Yosemite's design guidelines;
- provides flexibility during installation to avoiding having to take down any trees;
- uses rebar to secure the intersections of the fence, eliminating the need to dig post holes; and
- is well suited to the snow conditions.

This project will also result in the installation of a porcelain vitratek 30 x 20 panel interpretive sign on a standard Corten base.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County

**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):**

C.17 Construction of fencing enclosures or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.

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.

**Signature**

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

**Date:** //6/15/12//

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



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/05/2012

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:** 2012-032 Summit Meadow Fence Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 42639  
**Project Type:** Implementation Plan (IMPL)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Heather McKenny

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				Rebar will be used to secure the fence.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	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>
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	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				

<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>
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				
18. Archeological resources	No				There are no known archeological resources in the project area.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	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>
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				
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		
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		



<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>
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. 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
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Ethan McKinley	Acting Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection Chief Ranger
Heather McKenny	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Kimball Koch	Acting NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

#### E. 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>//6/7/12//</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>//6/7/12//</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>//6/11/12//</u>

##### Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>//6/15/12//</u>

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



## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: June 5, 2012

### PROJECT INFORMATION

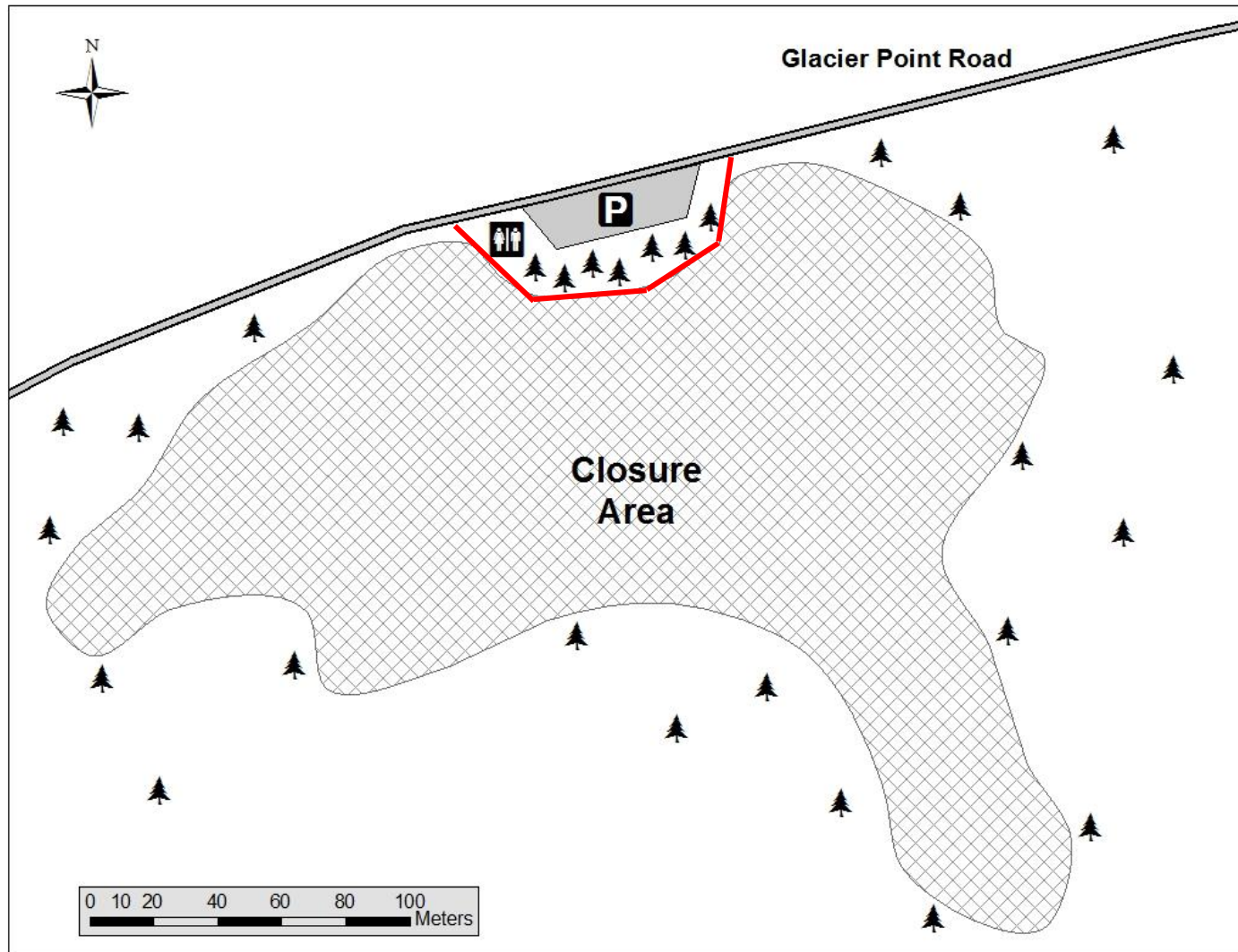
**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2012-032 Summit Meadow Fence Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 42639

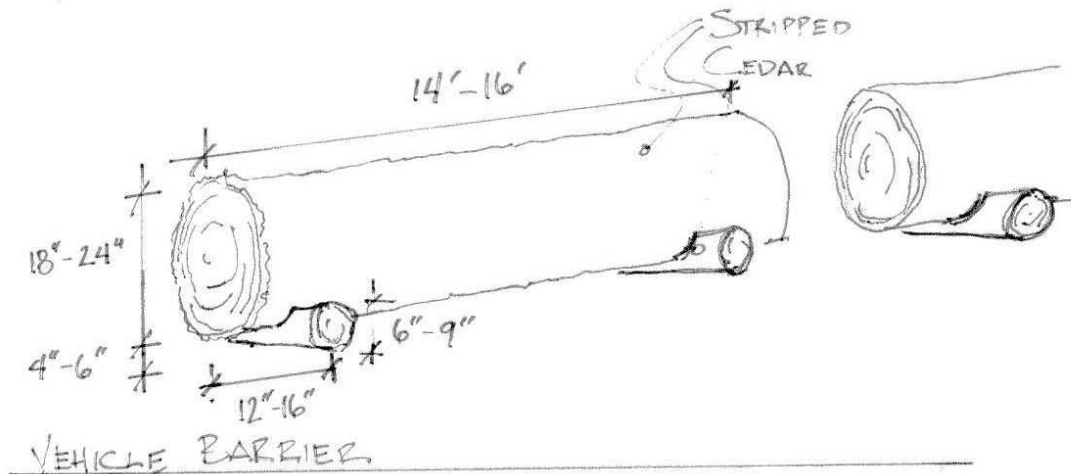
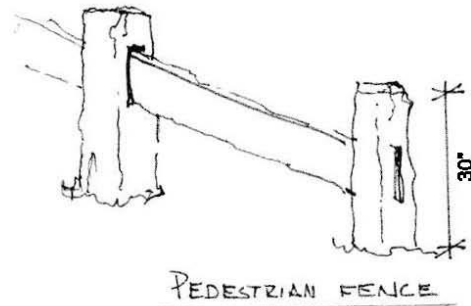
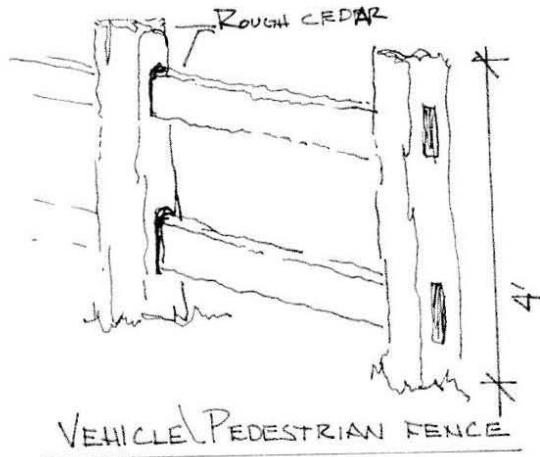
**Project Type:** Implementation Plan (IMPL)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Heather McKenny

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	Yes			The fence will aid in protecting the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs (federal candidate species) in the area.
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Rebar will be used to secure the fence.
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?			N/A	
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		
<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
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		





## DAY USE PARKING FENCING PLAN

Yosemite National Park/ RMS/ January 11, 2011  
NOT TO SCALE



Photo - Example of stacked four rail fence using cedar rails that will be installed in a zigzag pattern among the trees directly adjacent to the meadow.





---

## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

**1. Park:** Yosemite National Park

**2. Project Description:**

**Project Name:** 2012-032 Summit Meadow Fence Installation  
**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec  
**Date Prepared:** 06/07/2012  
**Telephone:** 209-379-1038  
**PEPC Project Number:** 42639

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

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

☒ Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected.

**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: 06/06/2012

Comments: The area has been surveyed and no archeological resources have been identified.

*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: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

---

[ X ] Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 06/06/2012

*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: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

---

[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 06/06/2012

Comments: No adverse effect on Glacier Point Road - found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places - 9/27/07.

*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:**

**NHPA Specialist**

Kimball Koch     //Kimball Koch//     Date: //6-11/12//

**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.**

Signature

Superintendent:     //Don L. Neubacher//     Date: //6/15/12//  
Don L. Neubacher