



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: Adrienne Freeman, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2013-006 Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation (45815)

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

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no historical properties affected.
- There 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:

- Culturally significant ethnographic resources are located in the proximity. Therefore, coordinate with the Archeology Office to provide archeological monitoring of excavations for sign posts. Notify the Jennifer Hardin (American Indian Liaison), Paul DePascale or Sonny Montague (Archeology) four weeks in advance of project implementation.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 45815.


Don L. Neubacher


Date



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2013-006 Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation

PEPC Project Number: 45815

Project Description:

Among the most commonly asked questions of visitor center staff are those about trails starting from Yosemite Valley. While park interpreters and volunteers are great sources of information about park hiking trails, many visitors arrive before or after the visitor center hours. Providing detailed hiking information and maps at outside kiosks would allow visitors to plan hiking excursions more effectively and safely. Additionally, visitors who have quick hiking questions would potentially be able to get answers efficiently, without waiting in line in the sometimes crowded visitor center.

This project will entail installing two informational kiosks (each containing three panels) on the pedestrian mall in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, each with a small roof or shaded top, allowing visitors to study both sides of the panels. These full color panels would be large enough to be studied by several visitors at a time. Each panel would contain a three-dimensional topographic map showing the trail and points of interest along the way.

Installation of the panels will consist of:

- Moving the existing sign from the right side of the Visitor Center door to the left side.
- Installing two new kiosks on the right side. One will take the place of the existing sign, and one will be installed immediately on its left. Each kiosk is 110" long and 96" high. Two 6" by 6" cedar posts comprise the base of each kiosk. Posts will be 84" apart and installed in maximum 36" reinforced with concrete. Each kiosk is made with roughed cedar and cedar shake, and metal components are core-ten steel.
- Using the footprint of the existing sign which was removed in 2005, the new sign would only need two new holes to be dug.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Culturally significant ethnographic resources are located in the proximity. Therefore, coordinate with the park Archeology Office to provide archeological monitoring of excavations for sign posts. Notify the Jennifer Hardin (American Indian Liaison), Paul DePascale or Sonny Montague (Archeology) four weeks in advance of project implementation.

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

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

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

Superintendent: Don L. Neubacher Date: 6/28/13
Don L. Neubacher



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/14/2013

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: 2013-006 Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation
PEPC Project Number: 45815
PMIS Number:
Project Type: Sign/exhibit (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Adrienne Freeman

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

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Sign posts measuring six inches by six inches will be buried 24 inches deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary, minimal noises when the sign is installed.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow	No				

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation - PEPC ID: 45815

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
characteristics					
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				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including	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
supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.					
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				Visitor experience will be enhanced by readily available trail information.
18. Archeological resources	No				Yosemite Archeological District
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Village Historic District
21. Ethnographic resources		Negligible			Culturally significant ethnographic resources are in the vicinity.
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		No		

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

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?				
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? 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? No
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
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education

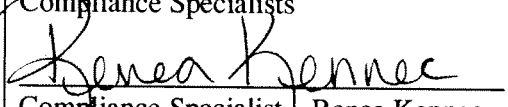
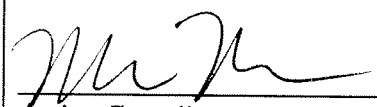
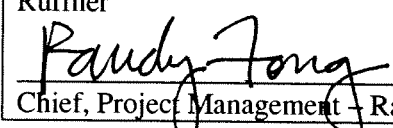
Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation - PEPC ID: 45815

Kevin Killian Adrienne Freeman Madelyn Ruffner Renea Kennec	Acting Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection Project Leader Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager NEPA Specialist
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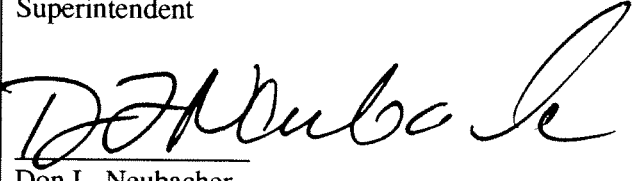
F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

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  Compliance Specialist - Renea Kennec	Date <u>6/18/13</u>
 Acting Compliance Program Manager - Madelyn Ruffner	<u>6/24/13</u>
 Chief, Project Management - Randy Fong	<u>6/27/13</u>

Approved:

Superintendent  Don L. Neubacher	Date <u>6/28/13</u>
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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: June 14, 2013

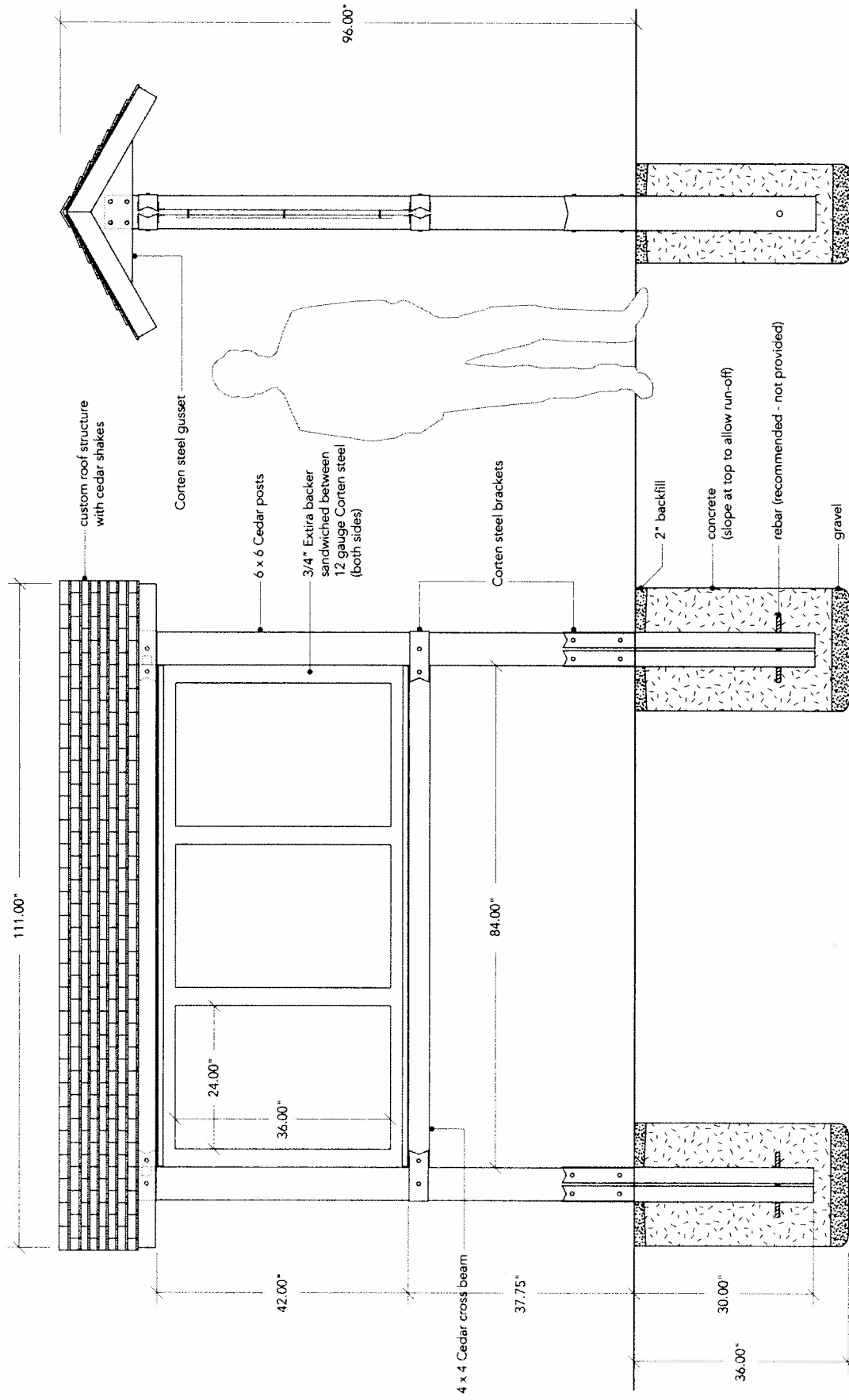
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2013-006 Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation
PEPC Project Number: 45815
Project Type: Sign/exhibit (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Adrienne Freeman

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Sign posts measuring six inches by six inches will be buried 24 inches deep.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Yosemite Archeological District.
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			Yosemite Village Historic District; Yosemite Valley Historic District.
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		

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



☒ Preliminary Design
☐ Design Development
☐ Final Design

Photo 1, existing sign



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4





ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2013-006 Valley Visitor Center New Trail Information Panels Installation

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 06/14/2013

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 45815

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

Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Village Historic District; Resources of Cultural Significance (un-evaluated)

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Archeological resources affected:

Name and number: Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and number: Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Name and number: Yosemite Village Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Ethnographic Resources Affected:

Name and number: Resources of Cultural Significance (un-evaluated)

Location:

NR status:

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)
- ☐ No 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: Sonny Montague
Date: 04/19/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Coordinate with the Archeology Office to provide archeological monitoring of excavations for sign posts. Notify Paul DePascale or Sonny Montague four weeks in advance of project implementation.

Doc Method: Stipulations/Conditions

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Jennifer Hardin
Date: 06/11/2013
Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [☐]

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties

Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Culturally significant ethnographic resources are located in the proximity. Therefore, coordinate with the Archeology Office to provide archeological monitoring of excavations for sign posts. Notify the Jennifer Hardin (American Indian Liaison), Paul DePascale/Sonny Montague (Archeology) four weeks in advance of project implementation.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[☒] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kevin McCardle

Date: 05/08/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [☐]

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties

Affected ☒ 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 Potential to Cause Effects
☐ No Historic Properties Affected
☒ 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

☐ 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.)**

- Assessment of Effect - Culturally significant ethnographic resources are located in the proximity. Therefore, coordinate with the Archeology Office to provide archeological monitoring of excavations for sign posts. Notify the Jennifer Hardin (American Indian Liaison), Paul DePascale or Sonny Montague (Archeology) four weeks in advance of project implementation.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR

Acting Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball Koch

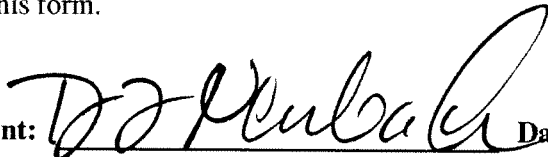


Date 6-24-2013

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

Date:

6/28/13

