



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: Kevin M. Keheley, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2013-018 Tioga Road Campground Accessibility Improvements (47109)

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:

- If archeological materials are discovered during construction work, please halt ground disturbing activities, and contact the Archeology Office.
- All staging areas will not impact existing native vegetation or soils and be clearly delineated. All stockpiled aggregate materials shall be managed to ensure complete removal from the established staging areas.
- Ensure that any changes to drainage flows due to site grading shall not accelerate soil erosion to the surrounding area outside the campsite.
- Construction activities should not affect the riparian zone; maintain a 50 foot buffer between the stream and the construction area.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 47109.

//Edward J. Walls// acting
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.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/30/2013

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2013-018 Tioga Road Campground Accessibility Improvements

PEPC Project Number: 47109

Project Description:

Project Summary: This project is part of a continuing effort to bring Yosemite's accessible campground quota into compliance. The following four campgrounds along the Tioga Road will be affected:

(1) Tuolumne Meadows: Twelve campsites will be affected (nine restored to original campsite condition and three will remain accessible).

Sites A10, A11, B37, C77, C80, C81, C87, C89, C90 (restore to original condition): In 2010, ten campsites underwent accessibility upgrades that were unsuccessful. Slopes were unsafe and the materials and grading contradicted the Yosemite's Design Guidelines. This project will include dismantling the accessibility upgrades at all twelve campsites, restoring the sites to their pre-2010 condition. (The park will ensure that same size-range of vehicles will be able to use the sites as before).

Sites C1, B38, B39 (make accessible): These three sites will be re-worked to meet accessibility requirements while following Yosemite's Design Guidelines for appropriate design in the high country.

(2) Porcupine Flat: four campsites to be made accessible (sites 33, 15, 16, 17).

(3) Tamarack Flat Campground: four campsites to be made accessible: (four of sites 21, 22, 23, 24, 38 will be made accessible).

(4) Crane Flat Campground: four campsites to be made accessible: Sites 423, 427. Fix the existing accessibility upgrades to better meet Yosemite's Design Guidelines for appropriate design in the high country. Both sites will accommodate 35 foot recreational vehicles (RVs) when completed.

Sites 421, 428: Site 421 will be made accessible and will be able to accommodate 35' RVs. It will remain a drive-through site. There is the possibility that after grading, Site 428 will no longer be able to accommodate 27' RVs after accessibility upgrades are made.

Scope of Work:

- 1) All campsite accessibility upgrades will fit into the existing campsite borders;
- 2) Campsite areas will not exceed 1.8% slopes;

Categorical Exclusion Form - Tioga Road Campground Accessibility Improvements - PEPC ID: 47109

- 3) The finished surface of accessible areas and paths of travel to restrooms will be made up of decomposed granite up to 6" thick;
- 4) Site drainage will follow existing natural drainage patterns. Drainage will not be conveyed through the new sites;
- 5) Little to no excavation is anticipated. Leveling of surfaces will occur primarily by adding decomposed granite, not by removing native soils;
- 6) All borders, grading/surfacing, site furnishings will meet the requirements of the Yosemite Design Guidelines;
- 7) None of the historic roads or campground circulation patterns will be altered.

Timeline: All construction will be conducted during the summer of 2013. Closing of individual campsites will be coordinated with Business and Revenue Management Staff to ensure minimal impacts to visitors.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- If archeological materials are discovered during construction work, please halt ground disturbing activities, and contact the Archeology Office.
- All staging areas will not impact existing native vegetation or soils and be clearly delineated. All stockpiled aggregate materials shall be managed to ensure complete removal from the established staging areas.
- Ensure that any changes to drainage flows due to site grading shall not accelerate soil erosion to the surrounding area outside the campsite.
- Construction activities should not affect the riparian zone; maintain a 50 foot buffer between the stream and the construction area.

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.19 Construction or rehabilitation in previously disturbed or developed areas, required to meet health or safety regulations, or to meet requirements for making facilities accessible to the handicapped.

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: //Edward J. Walls// acting **Date:** 8/8/13

Don L. Neubacher

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Yosemite National Park.*



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 07/26/2013

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: Tioga Road Campground Accessibility Improvements
PEPC Project Number: 47109
PMIS Number:
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Kevin Keheley

Is this 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			This project entails mostly fill but very few areas will need some excavation; up to a depth of 24 inches.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary air emissions from construction equipment.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Standard construction noises during the campsites improvements.
5. Water quality or quantity		Negligible			Project will have a 50 foot buffer between the stream and any construction.

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
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				
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 due to an increase in accessible sites.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Park archeologist recommends the following: if archeological materials are discovered during construction work, please halt ground disturbing activities, and contact the park archeology office.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Tuolumne Meadows Historic District
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	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
resources					
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

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		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or 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 or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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
Kevin Killian	Acting Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Kevin Keheley	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager

Renea Kenec	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	Date
<u>//Renea Kenec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kenec	<u>7/31/13</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>8/1/13</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner// acting</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>8/5/13</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Edward J. Walls// acting</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/8/13</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: July 30, 2013

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2013-018 Tioga Road Campground Accessibility Improvements
PEPC Project Number: 47109
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location:
 County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Kevin Keheley

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			This project entails mostly fill but very few areas will need some excavation; up to a depth of 24 inches.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Park archeologist has been involved in the site specific details.
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		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Tuolumne River

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
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?			N/A	
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: 2013-018 Tioga Road Campground Accessibility Improvements

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 07/30/2013

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 47109

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

APE consists of the following: Tuolumne Meadows Historic District; Tuolumne Meadows Archeological District; Porcupine Flat (sites 33, 15, 16, 17). Tamarack Flat (four of the five sites 21, 22, 23, 24 38). Crane Flat (sites 423, 427, 421, 428).

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

No

Yes

Source or reference: All areas have not been surveyed.

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

Archeological resources affected:

Name and numbers: Tuolumne Meadows Archeological District; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and numbers: Tuolumne Meadows Historic District (eligible)

Location: Tuolumne Meadows

Ethnographic Resources Affected:

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

5. **The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

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:

Archeologist

Name: Sonny Montague

Date: 06/25/2013

Comments: If archeological materials are discovered during construction work, please halt ground disturbing activities, and contact Sonny Montague or Laura Kirn.

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

Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 07/30/2013

Comments: Some proposed actions will occur in culturally significant areas that contain ethnographic resources valued by traditionally associated tribal groups. The proposed project was submitted for tribal review on June 28, 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: If archeological materials are discovered during construction work, please halt ground disturbing activities, and contact the Archeology Office.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kevin McCardle

Date: 07/25/2013

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 - If archeological materials are discovered during construction work, please halt ground disturbing activities, and contact the Archeology Office.**

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: 8/1/13

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: //Edward J. Walls// acting

Date: 8/8/13

Don L. Neubacher

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

Crane Flat Campground



Porcupine Flat Campground





Tamarack Creek

To Tioga Road (3 Miles)

Self Service Pay Station

P

Gate

To Yosemite Valley (16.2 Miles)



Tuolumne Meadows Campground

KEY
● = Sites to be made accessible
● = Sites to be restored to original conditions

