



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: Ed Dunlavey, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-013 Vogelsang Backpacker Composter Toilet Removal (57142)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project 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 adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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:

- Restrict stock use/staging areas/and deconstruction of the toilet to the existing disturbance footprint (i.e. existing trails and toilet footprint). Prior to the implementation of the project, please contact park compliance archaeologist, Sara Dolan, so that project team members can be briefed on the areas to avoid and to discuss what routes the pack animals will take to and from the project area.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 57142.

//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.*

Letter of Compliance Completion - Vogelsang Backpacker Composter Toilet Removal - PEPC ID: 57142



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2015-013 Vogelsang Backpacker Composter Toilet Removal

PEPC Project Number: 57142

Project Description:

This project entails removing the Vogelsang Clivus Multrum composting toilet building (Building No. 3410). The building is dilapidated and has not been used for many years. The deconstruction will be performed by park facilities and wilderness staff. The building is wood frame construction, sided with plywood and resting on a foundation of pier blocks (no poured concrete foundation). Deconstruction will be accomplished by hand with a combination of hand tools and cordless power tools. The cordless power tools will be used to cut the pieces of the building down to packable sizes to be removed by stock (no greater than two feet by four feet). Wilderness staff will coordinate the transportation of the building refuse out of the wilderness utilizing empty strings of park and/or concessioner stock on return trips from other operations.

Project Locations:

Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- Restrict stock use/staging areas/and deconstruction of the toilet to the existing disturbance footprint (i.e. existing trails and toilet footprint). Prior to the implementation of the project, please contact Compliance archaeologist Sara Dolan so that project team members can be briefed on the areas to avoid and to discuss what routes the pack animals will take to and from the project 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):

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: 6/15/15

Don L. Neubacher

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Yosemite National Park.*



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/05/2015

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: 2015-013 Vogelsang Backpacker Composter Toilet Removal
PEPC Project Number: 57142
Project Type: Removal/Demolition (R)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Ed Dunlavey

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		Negligible			There will be minimal air emissions during the structure removal.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			There will be temporary construction equipment noises during the structure removal.
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					
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				
17. Visitor experience,		Negligible			The visitor experience will be enhanced by removing the building from the

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
aesthetic resources					landscape.
18. Archeological resources	No				The composting toilet is located within the western limits of a sensitive archaeological site.
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 or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality,	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
gateway communities, etc.					
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		
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		No		

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

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

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, April Tribal Spreadsheet
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
Jeff Hilliard	Chief of Administration Management
Ron Borne	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	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Ed Dunlavey	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>6/5/15</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>6/9/15</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>6/10/15</u>

Approved:

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

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Yosemite National Park.*



PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: June 5, 2015

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2015-013 Vogelsang Backpacker Composter Toilet Removal
PEPC Project Number: 57142
Project Type: Removal/Demolition (R)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Ed Dunlavey

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?		No		
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?		No		
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			N/A	

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
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		
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness?	Yes			Minimum Requirement Analysis attached.
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2015-013 Vogelsang Backpacker Composter Toilet Removal

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 04/28/2015 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 57142

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

The composting toilet is located within the western limits of a sensitive archaeological site.

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 numbers: Archeological Site

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] Anthropologist
Name: Mike Turek
Date: 05/14/2015

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: ___ No Potential to Cause Effect ___ No Historic Properties Affected X No
Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Archeologist
Name: Sara Dolan
Date: 04/23/2015

Comments: The composting toilet is located within the western limits of a sensitive archaeological site. The use of stock animals to pack the materials and the staging areas for deconstructed materials must be limited to the existing disturbance footprint to avoid impacts to the archaeological site.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: ___ No Potential to Cause Effect ___ No Historic Properties Affected X No
Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Restrict stock use/staging areas/and deconstruction of the toilet to the existing disturbance footprint (i.e. existing trails and toilet footprint). Prior to the implementation of the project, please contact Compliance archaeologist Sara Dolan so that project team members can be briefed on the areas to avoid and to discuss what routes the pack animals will take to and from the project area.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Architect
Name: Charles Tonetti
Date: 05/01/2015

Comments: The structure is not a historic building (not listed on the LCS)

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: ___ No Potential to Cause Effect X No Historic Properties Affected ___ No
Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: Kevin McCardle
Date: 04/23/2015

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: X No Potential to Cause Effect No Historic Properties Affected No

Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

No Reviews From: Curator, 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
 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:

[X] **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.

1999 Programmatic Agreement as amended in 2014.

[] 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. Memo to SHPO/THPO

[] G. Memo to ACHP

SHPO/THPO Notes:

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 - Restrict stock use/staging areas/and deconstruction of the toilet to the existing disturbance footprint (i.e. existing trails and toilet footprint). Prior to the implementation of the project, please contact Compliance archaeologist Sara Dolan so that project team members can be briefed on the areas to avoid and to discuss what routes the pack animals will take to and from the project area.**

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: 6/5/15

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: 6/15/15

Don L. Neubacher

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*

Minimum Requirement Analysis

Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp Composter Demolition

Step 1: Problem Statement

The Composting toilet at the Vogelsang backpacker's campground is no longer functional. It is adversely affecting the undeveloped and primitive qualities of wilderness character while providing no administrative benefit.

Step 2: Background

The Vogelsang Backpacker's camp composting toilet was constructed in 1984. It was closed in 2004 due to extensive marmot damage. The composter was undersized for the amount of use it received, which resulted in park staff had hauling out partially-composted human waste by mule pack train. After the composter was closed, the quota for the Rafferty Creek Trailhead was reduced.

The Building is 8' by 13' with a plywood exterior. The composting bins and most of the contents of the building have been removed. For ten years backpackers at Fletcher Lake have been using the cathole method of waste disposal; there are also anecdotal reports that some of them are using the composter at the High Sierra Camp. No significant waste disposal or water quality issues have been documented during the time since the composter was closed.

Waste disposal at the Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp will be considered during the Wilderness Stewardship Planning process. While there is a possibility that a composter would be rebuilt for the campground, the materials in the existing composter are not worth salvaging. It has become a dangerous eyesore. (See Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp Composter Public Health Report, 2014)

Step 3: Other Actions outside of Wilderness

The composter is located in designated wilderness.

Step 4: Necessity for Action

Action is necessary to remove the structure. Both safety and wilderness concerns will continue without active demolition and removal.

Step 5: Alternatives

Alternative 1: No action

Composter will remain in place; closed to the public.

Alternative 2: Deconstruct and remove with non-motorized equipment

A crew of four people will dismantle the structure and reduce the pieces to a size that can be packed on mules. This will take approximately two weeks. The pieces will be packed out over the summer by concessioner mules that would otherwise be returning empty to Tuolumne Meadows.

Alternative 3: Deconstruct and remove with some motorized equipment

A crew of four people will dismantle the structure and reduce the pieces to a size that can be packed on mules. A low-noise generator and a few power tools will be used to cut up some of the sheet goods, such as metal roof panels, into a packable size. No more than 3 hours of power tool use is expected. The project will take approximately one week. The pieces will be packed out over the summer by concessioner mules that would otherwise be returning empty to Tuolumne Meadows.

Common to all action alternatives:

- Work will take place as early in the season as possible in order to minimize affects to visitors during the peak season and maximize the number of concessioner mule trips to remove material.
- Appropriate hanta virus and other safety protocols will be followed.
- Noisy demolition activities will be timed to avoid quiet hours.
- Visitors will be warned of the demolition activities when obtaining their wilderness permits.

Considered but dismissed:

- Build a composter: This will be considered in the upcoming *Wilderness Stewardship Plan*. There is no evidence to suggest that there is a current water quality issue related to human waste disposal in the area.
- Repair existing composter: The current composter is too deteriorated to repair.

Step 6: Effect on Wilderness Character

Alternative 1: No Action

The existing composter will continue to degrade the undeveloped and primitive qualities of wilderness character. The effect on the natural quality is negligible, but as the building further deteriorates the effects may increase as the plywood and other materials containing toxic components fall apart.

Alternative 2: Deconstruct and remove with non-motorized equipment

This will improve the undeveloped and primitive qualities by removing an obtrusive structure. During construction a small crew will negligibly affect the solitude and unconfined qualities. The noise from demolition will be substantial at times during the two weeks of work, negatively affecting the primitive quality.

Alternative 3: Deconstruct and remove with some motorized equipment

This will improve the undeveloped and primitive qualities by removing an obtrusive structure. During construction a small crew will negligibly affect the solitude and unconfined qualities. The noise from demolition will be substantial at times during the week of work, negatively affecting the primitive quality. The noise levels will be somewhat higher than alternative two but will be of much shorter duration. The undeveloped quality will also be affected by up to 3 hours of motorized tool use.

Step 7: Safety and economics

The only cost associated with this project is staff time; approximately \$14,000 for alternative 2 and \$7,000 for alternative 3.

Hazards associated with demolition include hanta virus; routine precautionary measures will be followed to mitigate this hazard. Cutting metal roof panels by hand is awkward and has increased risk of cuts- this can be somewhat mitigated with proper PPE. A cutting torch is not recommended due to the coating on the panels.

Step 8: Decision

This structure provides no benefit to wilderness character; it is long overdue for removal. The only substantial minimum requirement question is whether to use some power tools. Demolition is unavoidably noisy work. Power tool use will slightly improve worker safety. These tools will increase the noise level slightly, but the duration of the noise will be substantially reduced. For this reason alternative 3 is the minimum required to preserve wilderness character.

Section 4 (c) prohibitions allowed by this decision:

- Up to three hours of motorized tool use.

Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp Composter Demolition

Check one:

- ☒ The proposed action is a temporary, one time activity.
☐ The proposed action will be an on-going, long term activity.

Submitted By:

Rod Kennec

3/10/2015

Date

Reviewed By:

EQ Dunbar 3/12/15
Wilderness Manager Date
(Attach any comments and conditions)

[Signature] 3/12/15
Chief Ranger Date
(Attach any comments and conditions)

Approved By:

[Signature] 3/6/15
Superintendent Date
(Attach any comments and conditions)



Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp Composter Site Assessment
September 4, 2014

Yosemite National Park (YNP)
Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp Composter
Public Health Rodent and Pest Site Visit and Risk Assessment

Date: September 4, 2014 **Evaluated by:** Matthew Weinburke, CDR, USPHS, Yosemite
Park: YNP **Building/Area Evaluated:** Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp Composter
Present During Evaluation: Greg Hacker, PHFE and Mike Niemela, CDPH

References:

NPS Rodent Exclusion Manual (2005). NPS IPM Program; NPS Hantavirus Infection Recommendations for Risk Reduction (2013), NPS Public Health Program; YNP Directive #9: Hantavirus Risk Reduction NPS Directors Order #83, NPS Public Health Program

Introduction:

The following report is an onsite evaluation of the Vogelsang Backpacker's Camp composter located in YNP. The site assessment was conducted from 9:00 -9:30 am. Only the exterior was assessed due to the lack of access inside the structure. The following was found:

Location/Item	Comments	Recommendations
East side of structure	Destruction of base on the east side of the structure most likely from marmots and weathering (Exhibit A). The structure also creates an environment for rodent harborage including marmots and deer mice.	Destruction will continue to occur and create a potential public health hazard unless the structure is repaired, removed, or replaced.
West side of structure	Destruction of base on the west side of the structure most likely from marmots and weathering (Exhibit B). As noted above, the structure also creates an environment for rodent harborage.	See above recommendation.
North side of structure	Destruction of base on the north side of the structure most likely from marmots and weathering (Exhibit C). As noted above, the structure also creates an environment for rodent harborage.	See above recommendation.
South side of structure	Destruction found on the south side of the structure. As noted above, the structure also creates an environment for rodent harborage.	See recommendation above.
South side of structure	Two bio-hazardous yellow colored caution signs are posted on the south side doors (Exhibit D). Bio-hazard warning signs shall be used to signify the actual or potential presence of a biohazard and to identify the structure which contain, or are contaminated with, viable bio-hazardous (infectious) agents.	See recommendation above. Biological hazard caution signs should not be posted if there are no long infectious agents presenting a risk or potential risk to humans. However, a warning sign to not enter the structure should be posted.

Other Overall Recommendations

The Vogelsang backpacker's camp composter has multiple areas of damage primarily due to weather and marmots. The damaged structure now serves as a significant source of harborage for marmots, ground squirrels, and deer mice. The current condition of the composter creates harborage for rodents including marmots and deer mice. Furthermore, rodents can carry diseases, which include the potential transmission of hantavirus by deer mice. Warning signs should be posted to not enter the structure. It is recommended to repair, remove, or replace the Vogelsang Composter.

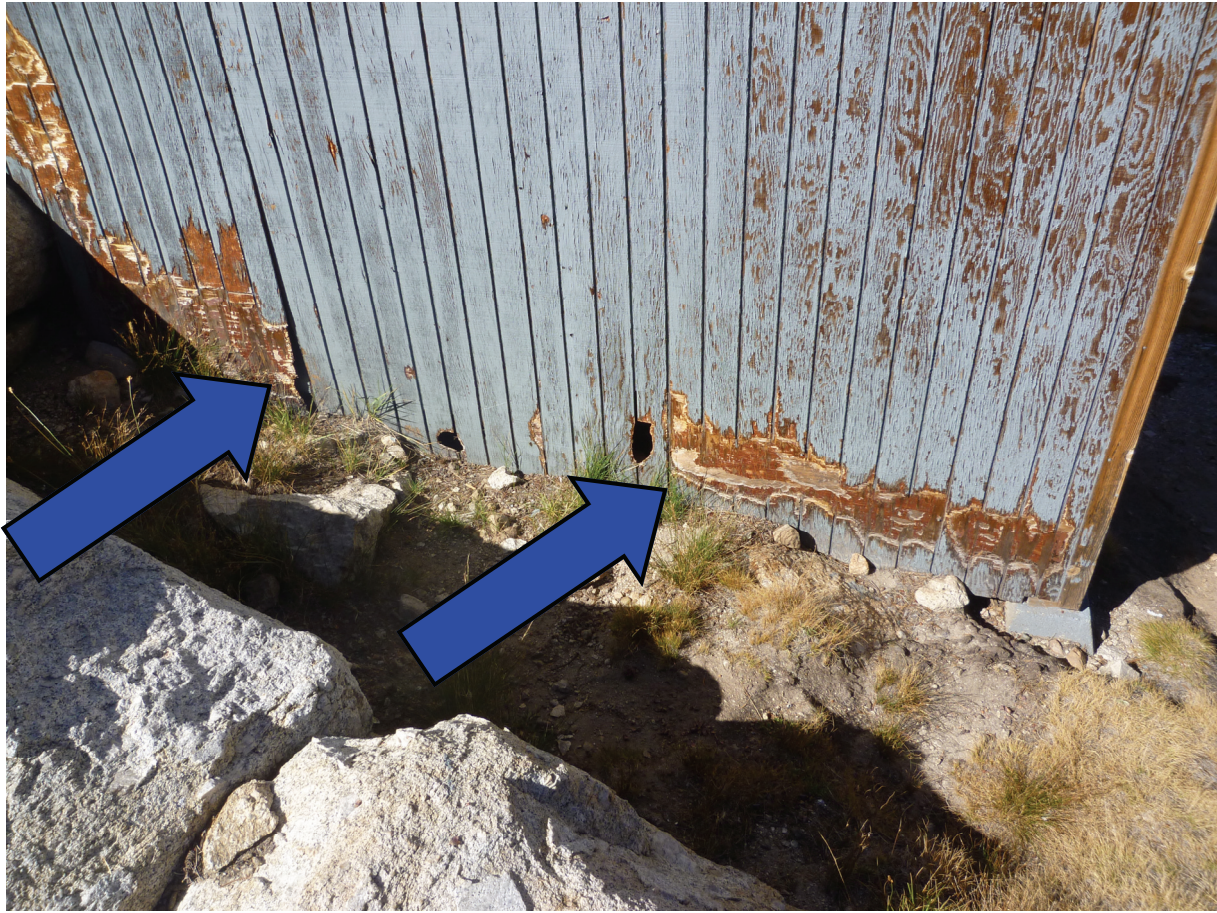


Exhibit A: Destruction of base on east side of composter.



Exhibit B: Destruction of base on west side of composter.



Exhibit C: Destruction of base on north side of composter.



Exhibit D: Bio-hazardous signs on south side of composter.