



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615 (YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Garrett Chun, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-021 Crane Flat Campground Soil Investigation for Wastewater Facilities (59927)

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:

- The project is located within Crane Flat Archeological District and near known archeological sites and areas of traditional/sacred importance to local traditionally associated tribal groups. All ground disturbance activities will be subjected to tribal monitoring.
- Based on the proximity of the project area to three archaeological sites, archaeological monitoring is required.
- Use of the backhoe or drill rig will be limited to the campground loop roads to prevent surface artifacts from being shifted or moved.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 59927.

//Jeff Hilliard// for
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: Crane Flat Campground Soil Investigation for Wastewater Facilities

PEPC Project Number: 59927

Description of Action (Project Description):

The Crane Flat Campground, constructed in 1963, consists of five loops (Loop 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500) and five restroom facilities. Each restroom facility is isolated from each other and has its own septic tank and leach field.

- Loop 100 serves 23 campsites (building 6039)
- Loop 200/300 serves 35 and 16 campsites respectively (building 6040)
- Loop 400 serves 45 campsites (buildings 6041 and 6042)
- Loop 500 serves 36 campsites (building 6043)

Between 2012 and 2013, effluent was observed to have surfaced at the leach fields associated with buildings 6039, 6040, and 6042. Leach field repairs implemented in association with buildings 6039 and 6040 resulted in the successful rehabilitation of those leach fields thus bringing those restrooms back into operational service. Leach field repairs on building 6042 were unsuccessful and that restroom has never been put back online; currently portable restrooms are transported in to service that area of the campground.

As of 2015, the five Crane Flat Campground wastewater systems are 52 years in age. The overall objective is to provide rehabilitation and replacement improvements to these systems. However, at this time, this project is only requesting approval to:

- Drill 14 percolation holes, 6 inches in diameter, 5 feet below grade
- Drill 14 piezometer holes, 6 inches in diameter, 12 feet below grade

Percolation holes will likely be performed by mechanical hand-operated tools. Piezometer holes will utilize either a drill rig or a backhoe with an auger attachment. The percolation holes will provide an indication of the rate of effluent absorption of the native soil. The piezometers will allow the park to monitor and to track groundwater levels. This data is a necessary precursor to preliminary design. Compliance for design alternatives will be submitted through a future and separate project package.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- The project is located within Crane Flat Archeological District and near known archeological sites and areas of traditional/sacred importance to local traditionally associated tribal groups. All ground disturbance activities will be subjected to tribal monitoring.
- Based on the proximity of the project area to three archaeological sites, archaeological monitoring is required.
- Use of the backhoe or drill rig will be limited to the campground loop roads to prevent surface artifacts from being shifted or moved.

CE Citation: C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

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: //Jeff Hilliard// for **Date:** 10/28/15
Don L. Neubacher

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2015-021 Crane Flat Campground Soil Investigation for Wastewater Facilities
PEPC Project Number: 59927
Project Type: Other Study (STU)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Garrett Chun

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	Potential	Minor and temporary emissions and dust from drill rig or auger device.
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	The proposed geo-technical testing is located in close proximity to three archaeological sites. The northern half of the project area, is situated within the Crane Flat Archaeological District. Based on the proximity of the project area to three archaeological sites, archaeological monitoring is required. Use of the backhoe or drill rig will be limited to the campground loop roads to prevent surface artifacts from being shifted or moved.
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Project located within Crane Flat Archeological District and near known archeological sites and areas of traditional/sacred importance to local traditionally associated tribal groups. Consultation letter sent to all tribes on September 11, 2015, with one response identifying ethnographic resources. All ground disturbance activities will be subjected to archeological monitoring and tribal monitoring.
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features <i>Soils</i>	Potential	28 proposed holes including 14 piezometer holes that are 6 inches in diameter and 12 feet deep (6.3 cubic yards of soil); 14 percolation holes that are 6 inches in diameter and 5 feet deep (2.6 cubic yards of soil). In total 8.5 cubic yards of soil will be excavated.
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety		
Other Operational	None	
Other Other <i>Hazardous Substances</i>	Potential	Motor fuel used for drill/auger device and passenger vehicles.
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	Potential	Temporary noise from drill rig or auger device during normal business hours.
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists <u> //Corrie Stetzel// </u> Compliance Specialist – Corrie Stetzel	Date <u> 10/26/2015 </u>
<u> //Madelyn Ruffner// </u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u> 10/26/15 </u>
<u> //Randy Fong// </u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u> 10/27/2015 </u>

Approved:

Superintendent <u> //Jeff Hilliard// for </u> Don L. Neubacher	Date <u> 10/28/15 </u>
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ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Crane Flat Campground Soil Investigation for Wastewater Facilities
Prepared by: Sara Dolan Date Prepared: 10/15/2015 Telephone: (209) 379-1308
PEPC Project Number: 59927

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d]):
Crane Flat Archeological District

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

No

Yes

Source or reference:

4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

Archeological Resources Notes: The project area is located nearby 2 sensitive archaeological resources and in close proximity to a historic railroad spur.

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

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

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: Scott Carpenter

Date: 10/21/2015

Comments: Project located within Crane Flat Archeological District and near known archeological sites and areas of traditional/sacred importance to local traditionally associated tribal groups.

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: All ground disturbance activities will be subjected to archeological monitoring and tribal monitoring.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 08/28/2015

Comments: The proposed geo-technical testing is located in close proximity to three archaeological sites. The northern half of the project area is situated within the Crane Flat Archaeological District.

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: YOSE 1999 PA, stipulation VII.C.2.h. Based on the proximity of the project area to three archaeological sites, archaeological monitoring is required. Use of the backhoe or drill rig will be limited to the campground loop roads to prevent surface artifacts from being shifted or moved.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 08/31/2015

Comments: The proposed geo-technical testing is located in close proximity to historic period site CA-MRP-0720H.

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: Historic remains/site will be avoided during project. YOSE 1999 PA, stipulation VII.C.2.h. Based on the proximity of the project area to three archaeological sites, archaeological monitoring is required. Use of the backhoe or drill rig will be limited to the campground loop roads to prevent surface artifacts from being shifted or moved.

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 08/31/2015

Comments: No issues.

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:

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 10/26/2015

Comments: No issues.

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:

No Reviews From: Curator, 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.

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

G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

H. Memo to ACHP

SHPO/THPO Notes: Consultation letter sent out September 11, 2015 for 30 day review

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

Assessment of Effect Form

Crane Flat Campground Soil Investigation for Wastewater Facilities - PEPC ID: 59927

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.)

- All ground disturbance activities will be subjected to tribal monitoring.
- Based on the proximity of the project area to three archaeological sites, archaeological monitoring is required.
- Use of the backhoe or drill rig will be limited to the campground loop roads to prevent surface artifacts from being shifted or moved.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch// Date: October 26, 2015

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: //Jeff Hilliard// for Date: 10/28/15
Don L. Neubacher