



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:** Ron Gaunt, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-029 Wawona Fiber Optic Installation (60383)

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 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:

- Top-soil during trenching will be salvaged and replaced upon completion.
- Archeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities.
- Project must have tribal monitoring during all ground disturbance activities.

### Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

- Ensure that contractor performs utility locates/potholing prior to work, and that as-built records are turned into the Facilities Management Division.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 60383.

//Don Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2015-029 Wawona Fiber Optic Installation

**PEPC Project Number:** 60383

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

The purpose of this project is to connect the Wawona Prescribed Fire Trailer, the Wawona Campground Office, and the Wawona Interpretation Office to the recently installed communication and data network tower. Conduit has already been installed from the tower to a location within 5-feet of the Wawona Prescribed Fire Trailer. This project would require installation of underground conduit and two pull boxes/junction boxes.

Trenching for the 2-inch conduit would measure 12-inches wide by 18-inches deep, and extend approximately 120 feet from the Prescribed Fire Trailer to the Campground Office, and 130 feet from the Campground Office to the Interpretation Office. All proposed trenching is within the boundaries of CA-MRP-0008/H. Excavation for pull boxes/junction boxes at the Campground Office and the Interpretation Office would measure 3-feet, by 3-feet, by 3-feet.

Work associated with connecting the Prescribed Fire Trailer to the Campground Office is anticipated to occur in late October or early November. Work to connect the Campground Office and the Interpretation Office is not currently scheduled.

**Project Locations:**

Madera County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- Topsoil during trenching will be salvaged and replaced upon completion.
- Archeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities.
- Project must have tribal monitoring during all ground disturbance activities.

**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:** //Don Neubacher// **Date:** 11/2/15  
Don L. Neubacher

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2015-029 Wawona Fiber Optic Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 60383  
**Project Type:** Engineering/Technical Services  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Madera, California **Other:** Wawona  
**Project Leader:** Ron Gaunt

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	Potential	A back hoe or ditch-witch would be used to excavate trenches, causing temporary dust and equipment emissions (maximum of two days).
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 Archeologic Resources	Potential	This project could impact an archeological site which contributes to the Wawona Archeological District. Archeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities.
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Project is within a traditionally sensitive area with local traditionally affiliated tribal groups. Project must have tribal monitoring during all ground disturbance activities

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features <i>Soils</i>	Potential	Trenches are expected to be 12” wide by 18” deep. The trench from the Wawona Prescribed Fire Trailer to the Campground Office would be approximately 110’ in length. The trench from the Campground Office to the Interpretation Office would be approximately 180’ in length. Excavation for two junction boxes would measure 3’ x 3’ x 3’ each.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	The project will enhance operations by connecting offices to the communication and data network.
<b>Other</b> <i>Hazardous Substances</i>	Potential	Motor fuel will be used to operate machinery.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Campground and interpretation services will be enhanced through better connection to the communication and data network.
<b>Water Floodplains</b>	None	
<b>Water Marine or Estuarine Resources</b>	None	
<b>Water Water Quality or Quantity</b>	None	
<b>Water Wetlands</b>	None	
<b>Water Wild and Scenic River</b>	Potential	This project is located within the South Fork Merced River corridor and has the potential to impact the Cultural ORV 13 - the Wawona Archeological District.
<b>Wilderness Wilderness</b>	None	

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists  <u>//Corrie Stetzel//</u> Compliance Specialist – Corrie Stetzel	Date <u>10/28/15</u>
 <u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	 <u>10/28/15</u>
 <u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	 <u>10/30/15</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent  <u>//Don Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	Date  _____
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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:** 2015-029 Wawona Fiber Optic Installation

**Prepared by:** Scott Carpenter    **Date Prepared:**    **Telephone:** 209.379.1314

**PEPC Project Number:** 60383

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

Wawona Archeological District

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

No

Yes

**Source or reference:** Archeological Monitoring (Hull 1986; Hull et al. 2015; Szeghi 2014; Depascale and Szeghi 2015)

Archeological Survey (Bennyhoff 1952; Napton 1974)

Archeological Testing (Whittaker 1981; Ervin 1984; Szeghi and Jackson (2014)

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

**Archeological resources affected:**

**Name:** Wawona Archeological District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Archeological Resources Notes:** The project area falls within the boundaries of a sensitive archeological resource. The resource is considered a contributing element of the Wawona Archeological District.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** The project area falls within the boundaries of a sensitive archeological resource. There are no known additional ethnographic resources.

**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)  
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic
- No 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  
Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape
- No elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
- No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
- X Other (please specify): Alterations to buildings 4002 and 4027(non-historic) will be minimal and reversible, where fiber optic junction meets building.

**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:

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**[ X ] Anthropologist**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 10/16/2015

**Comments:** Traditionally sensitive area with local traditionally affiliated 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:** Project must have archeological monitoring and tribal monitoring during all ground disturbance activities

**Doc Method:** Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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**[ X ] Archeologist**

**Name:** Sara Dolan

**Date:** 10/07/2015

**Comments:** YOSE 1999 PA, stipulation VII.C.2.h.

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:** Archeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities.

**Doc Method:** Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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**Historical Architect**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 10/26/2015

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:**

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**Historical Landscape Architect**

**Name:** Kimball Koch

**Date:** 10/23/2015

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:**

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

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## 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:** Tribal spreadsheet sent out September 2015 for 30 day review

**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.)

- Archeological monitoring is required for all ground disturbing activities.
- Project must have tribal monitoring during all ground disturbance activities.

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Historic Preservation Officer:**

Kimball Koch //Kimball Koch// **Date:** October 29, 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:** //Don Neubacher// **Date:** 11/2/15  
Don L. Neubacher