



**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:** Heather Boothe, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-038 Yellow Pine Campground Expansion (62134)

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

- 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:

- An important Ethnographic tree is located nearby. The tree is dead and felled but still holds cultural importance. The tree should be avoided from being impacted during further development of the proposed project.
- No archeological monitoring is required. If subsurface prehistoric or historical materials are encountered during construction implementation, please stop work and notify the Archeology Office.

**Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: None**

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 62134.

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

Letter of Compliance Completion – 2015-038 Yellow Pine Campground Expansion - PEPC ID: 62134



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2015-038 Yellow Pine Campground Expansion

**PEPC Project Number:** 62134

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

The park is seeking to optimize the space in the Yellow Pine Administrative Campground in Yosemite Valley to accommodate administrative campsite needs without drawing from public campground inventory. The project will add two group campsites (each accommodating up to 30 people), and reconfigure the foot print of one existing camp host site to accommodate an additional 12 people. These new sites will increase the park's ability to provide for administrative campsite requests, including those of traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups.

The scope of work includes development of two group campsites on the south side of the Yellow Pine Campground road, between sites B and D. For the group sites, work will include delineating parking area adjacent to road, clearing small vegetation within new site boundaries (mature trees will remain), installation of logs to mark site boundaries, installation of one fire ring per site, approximately eight picnic tables per site, six bear boxes per site, one BBQ stand per site, and one lantern pole per site. The project also entails redevelopment of the East Camp host site into three smaller family campsites within the same foot print. Each of the two new family sites will have a fire ring, two bear boxes, and one picnic table. Primary ground disturbance will take place adjacent to the road in developing parking spaces.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- An important Ethnographic tree is located nearby. The tree is dead and felled but still holds cultural importance. The tree should be avoided from being impacted during further development of the proposed project.
- No archeological monitoring is required. If subsurface prehistoric or historical materials are encountered during construction implementation, please stop work and notify the Archeology Office.

**CE Citation:** C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Superintendent: Don L. Neubacher

Date: 3/11/16

Don L. Neubacher



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2015-038 Yellow Pine Campground Expansion  
**PEPC Project Number:** 62134  
**Project Type:** Boundary Adjustment (BA)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California **District:** Yosemite Valley  
**Project Leader:** Heather Boothe

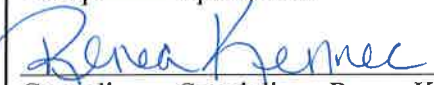

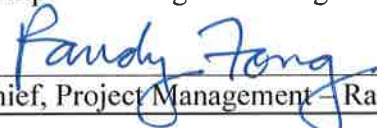
### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

| Resource                                                                                        | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Air</b><br>Air Quality                                                                       | None                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Biological</b><br>Nonnative or Exotic Species                                                | None                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Biological</b><br>Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat                                | None                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Biological</b><br>Vegetation                                                                 | None                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Biological</b><br>Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species | None                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Cultural</b><br>Archeological Resources                                                      | Potential            | Issue: This project lies within the Yosemite Valley Archeological District but there are no archeological sites in the area.                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Cultural</b><br>Cultural Landscapes                                                          | Potential            | Issue: The project is located within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The Yellow Pines Campground is not identified as a historic site within the 2006 district nomination. The proposed project does not adversely affect any features of the built |


|                                                                                                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                       |           | environment within the historic district.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Cultural</b><br>Ethnographic<br>Resources                                                          | Potential | This project was included on the December 2015 tribal consultation spreadsheet. No comments were received. No archeological monitoring is required. If subsurface prehistoric or historical materials are encountered during construction implementation, please stop work and notify the Archeology Office. |
| <b>Cultural</b><br>Museum Collections                                                                 | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Cultural</b><br>Prehistoric/historic<br>structures                                                 | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Geological</b><br>Geologic Features                                                                | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Geological</b><br>Geologic Processes                                                               | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Lightscares</b><br>Lightscares                                                                     | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Other</b><br>Human Health and<br>Safety                                                            | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Other</b><br>Operational                                                                           | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Other</b><br>Other                                                                                 | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Socioeconomic</b><br>Land Use                                                                      | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Socioeconomic</b><br>Minority and low-<br>income populations,<br>size, migration<br>patterns, etc. | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Socioeconomic</b><br>Socioeconomic                                                                 | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Soundscapes</b><br>Soundscapes                                                                     | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Viewsheds</b><br>Viewsheds                                                                         | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Visitor Use and<br/>Experience</b><br>Recreation<br>Resources                                      | Potential | Issue: The addition of administration camping will allow for existing visitor camping sites to continue to be used for visitor use.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Visitor Use and<br/>Experience</b>                                                                 | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                               |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visitor Use and Experience                    |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Water</b><br>Floodplains                   | Potential | Project area is within the existing 100-year floodplain but entails little physical development to an existing campground area.                                                                                                            |
| <b>Water</b><br>Marine or Estuarine Resources | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Water</b><br>Water Quality or Quantity     | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Water</b><br>Wetlands                      | Potential | Although the area has a patch of Himalayan blackberry (FAC species), resources staff have indicated that there is a mixed conifer overstory, mostly bare soil covered with pine needles, and other factors indicating it is not a wetland. |
| <b>Water</b><br>Wild and Scenic River         | Potential | Issue: Yellow Pine Campground is in the Merced River Corridor. The new campsites will not encroach, intrude, or unreasonably diminish ORVs.                                                                                                |
| <b>Wilderness</b><br>Wilderness               | None      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Recommended:**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Compliance Specialists<br><br>Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec<br><br>Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner<br><br>Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong | Date<br><u>3/6/16</u><br><u>3/8/16</u><br><u>3/9/16</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|

**Approved:**

|                                                                                                                           |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Superintendent<br><br>Don L. Neubacher | Date<br><u>3/11/16</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|



## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** Yellow Pine Campground Expansion

**Prepared by:** Sara Dolan **Date Prepared:** 02/02/2016 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1308

**PEPC Project Number:** 62134

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

Yosemite Valley Archeological District

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

       No

  X   Yes

**Source or reference:** Dolan (2015)

4. **Potentially Affected Resources:**

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** Bridgeport Tom's Yellow Pine Tree used in ceremonial context is located nearby. Staff will identify if the tree is still on site, record and develop avoidance plan for any future work associated with the project.

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:**

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☒ 106 Advisor

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 02/17/2016

Comments: The project would not adversely affect the Yosemite Valley Historic 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:

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☒ Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 02/16/2016

Comments: An important Ethnographic tree is located nearby. The tree is dead and felled but still holds cultural importance.

*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: Staff identified that the Ethnographic Tree is in the Host Camp spot of Yellow Pine Campground. The tree should be avoided from being impacted during further development of the proposed project.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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☒ Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 02/02/2016

*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 archeological monitoring is required. If subsurface prehistoric or historical materials are encountered during construction implementation, please stop work and notify the Archeology Office.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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☒ Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 02/17/2016

Comments: The project is located within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The Yellow Pines Campground is not identified as a historic site within the 2006 district nomination. The proposed project does not adversely affect any features of the built environment within the historic 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:

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No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 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:

**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 - An important Ethnographic tree is located nearby. The tree is dead and felled but still holds cultural importance. The tree should be avoided from being impacted during further development of the proposed project.**

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

**Section 106 Coordinator:**

Kimball  
Koch

 **Date:** March 7, 2016

**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:**

 **Date:** 3/11/16  
Don L. Neubacher

# Yellow Pine Campground

Yosemite National Park  
California

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

