



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: Heather Boothe, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-015 Parkwide Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event - Programmatic (2016-2020) (65512)

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

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no 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:

- During the event the Park will follow the guidelines for the Cultural and Archeological Resource Education Program described in the project background and description (enclosed in CE package).
- Interpretation staff will coordinate with YOSE cultural resource staff during the event.
- No historic vegetation should be removed under an invasive exotics removal process without review by CRM staff.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 65512.

// 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.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2016-015 Parkwide Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event – Programmatic (2016-2020)

PEPC Project Number: 65512

Description of Action (Project Description):

The Yosemite Facelift has become an annual tradition in Yosemite National Park coinciding with National Public Lands Day, the last Saturday of September. For the past twelve years this park-wide volunteer clean-up and restoration event has been successfully carried out through a partnership between the Yosemite Climbing Association (YCA) and the NPS.

The compliance entails regular renewal of a five year programmatic categorical exclusion, first approved in 2011, to cover the Facelift activities that occur annually.

Previously the Facelift was a YCA event that NPS staff logistically supported for planning, compliance, and the operational period. After consultation with YCA president Ken Yager, the Yosemite NPS Executive Leadership Team, and the Facelift Core Team, it was agreed that the five-day Facelift will now be an official NPS event with YCA as the primary sponsor and volunteer recruiter.

The NPS will organize the Facelift logistics, clean-up, and restoration components and ensure that compliance for special projects of the Facelift is completed (under separate compliance as needed). YCA will continue to organize evening programs during Facelift (and apply for a special use permit for the programs), and have a central role in the planning, material support, and operational period of the event.

This project will cover the volunteers participating in a park-wide litter clean-up. Check-in stations will be at Yosemite Village, Tuolumne Meadows and Wawona.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA
Tuolumne County, CA
Madera County, CA

Mitigation(s):

- During the event the Park will follow the guidelines for the Cultural and Archeological Resource Education Program described in the project background and description (enclosed in CE package).
- Interpretation staff will coordinate with YOSE cultural resource staff during the event.
- No historic vegetation will be removed under an invasive exotics removal process without review by CRM staff.

CE Citation: E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

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: 7/28/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
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 unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, 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 (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2016-015 Parkwide Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event - Programmatic

PEPC Project Number: 65512

Project Type:

Other Maintenance Activities (MNT)

Project Location:

County, State:

Mariposa, California

County, State:

Tuolumne, California

County, State:

Madera, California

Project Leader:

Heather Boothe

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	None	
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 Archeological Resources	Potential	This event takes place in the Yosemite Valley Archeological District, measures will be taken to prevent disturbance to sensitive areas.
Cultural Cultural	None	

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Parkwide Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event - Programmatic - PEPC ID:
65512

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Landscapes		
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	Mitigated; consultation with park staff will occur prior to and during the event.
Other Operational	Potential	Each year the volume of trash waste increases temporarily during this event. There are three staging areas with registration tents and trash collection sites.
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	None	
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	
Water Floodplains	None	
Water	None	

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Parkwide Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event - Programmatic - PEPC ID: 65512

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Marine or Estuarine Resources		
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	The clean-up activities are within the Merced and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Corridors
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>// Kristin Anderson //</u> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	<u>7/25/2016</u>
<u>// Madelyn Ruffner //</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>7/27/2016</u>
<u>//Randy Fong //</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>7/27/2016</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>7/28/2016</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: 2016-015 Parkwide Yosemite Facelift Volunteer Event - Programmatic

Prepared by: Kristin Anderson **Date Prepared:** 7/25/16 **Telephone:** 209-379-1002

PEPC Project Number: 65512

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

County, State: Tuolumne, CA

County, State: Madera, CA

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

Varies, activities occur in selected areas parkwide but most activities are within Yosemite Valley
(Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Valley 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 affected:

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Archeological Resources Notes: Majority of activities take place in this area

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Majority of activities take place in this area

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and number(s): Yosemite Valley Historic District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural Landscapes Notes: Majority of activities take place in this area

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 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 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] 106 Advisor

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 07/14/2016

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:

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 07/18/2016

Comments: Project scope will not affect any ethnographic resources, tribal consultation sent via independent letter on July 14, 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:

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 07/21/2016

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: Interpretation staff will coordinate with YOSE cultural resource staff during the event.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/13/2016

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:

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/13/2016

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:

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 06/29/2016

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 historic vegetation should be removed under an invasive exotics removal process without review by CRM staff.

No Reviews From: Curator, 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 PA as amended in 2016

☐ 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 - Archeology - During the event the Park will follow the guidelines for the Cultural and Archeological Resource Education Program described in the project background and description (enclosed in CE package).
- Assessment of Effect - Archeology - Interpretation staff will coordinate with YOSE cultural resource staff during the event.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball Koch // Kimball Koch //

Date: 7/25/2016

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: // Don L. Neubacher //
Don L. Neubacher

Date: 7/28/2016

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Yosemite Facelift

Project Background

The annual “Yosemite Facelift” is a volunteer-based, park-wide trash removal and restoration event corresponding with National Public Lands Day (NPLD). The project is sponsored by the Yosemite Climbing Association (YCA), a non-profit organization. After twelve years of successful Facelift Events we are seeking a renewal of the five-year Programmatic Categorical Exclusion for the Annual Yosemite Facelift.

First initiated in 2003 by the Yosemite climbing community, the Facelift has grown into a hugely successful, family oriented, park-wide annual event. Starting in 2011 the event became an official NPS event, supported by all divisions. Yosemite Climbing Association, the event sponsor, will maintain a central role in the planning and operations of the event.

All of Yosemite’s primary partners are involved in the event, as are many other organizations throughout the area, including boy and girl scouts, local schools and colleges, and corporate and non-profit organizations. For the last several years, over 300 NatureBridge students have participated in the event each year.

The event is one of the premier NPLD events, with over 1,600 unique volunteers in 2015 contributing nearly 10,000 hours. The volunteers collected up to over 6,000 pounds of small trash, and several thousand pounds of larger debris. The weight of trash has actually gone down in recent years, signifying the long-term impact of the event.

Project Description

This compliance package will cover all aspects of the Facelift operations that will essentially remain unchanged year to year. Most of event volunteers are park visitors that sign-up spontaneously and will primarily be directed to focus on road corridors and pullouts, day-use areas, campgrounds and lodging areas, hiking trails and climbing routes. Emphasis will be placed on working from the periphery of the park boundary and working towards Yosemite Valley as the event progresses. Road corridors will be cleaned during the week to avoid weekend traffic.

- **“Special Projects,”** named because of complexity or size of restoration or clean-up projects at predetermined locations, require more intensive coordination and will have NPS staff oversight. All "Special projects" are developed by the divisions and will go through separate compliance review. They are separated from the overall event compliance because they change year to year. The overall event covers litter pick up only as far as volunteer work goes. For example, the Climber Trail projects have their own compliance, as does the El Capitan Meadow restoration work. These are often projects that divisions are already working on, where volunteers will be engaged during the event.

The Facelift will continue to improve educational components to encourage volunteer stewardship of cultural and natural resources both in National Parks and in the volunteer's home areas. The check-in registration process will be consistent for all volunteers. Each volunteer must sign-up each day worked at the event registration center located in front of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center, Tuolumne Store Parking Area, and Wawona. The registration centers will be open from 8am to 5pm each day of the event.

- The check-in and registration process begins with each participant filling out required volunteer program forms.
- From there, volunteers will travel through resource education stations with interactive displays and have verbal contact with NPS staff. Most significantly, each volunteer must listen to a presentation from an archeology educator about preserving the park's history by not picking up or collecting artifacts. (See cultural resources section below.)
- Event coordinators will work with each volunteer to identify the areas to be canvassed. In some cases, a geographical area or section of roadway will have an assigned group leader that has received additional resource education training and will accompany the group. (See cultural resources section below.)
- The final stage of the check-in and registration process is the safety and equipment pick-up area where all volunteers will have contact with a safety officer, prior to receiving gloves, vest, and trash bags (or trash buckets).
- Each volunteer who signs in on the daily sign in sheet will receive one raffle ticket for the daily raffle, conducted by YCA. Prizes are donated to YCA by various retailers, vendors, and non-profits. On the last day of the event (Sunday) a reception will be held in the Yosemite Valley Auditorium; serving dinner and beverages to up to 400 people. All evening programs will be addressed in YCA's special use permit for the event.

Cultural and Archaeological Resource Education Program

The Facelift planning team realizes that the nature of the Facelift event poses a threat to cultural resources and specifically historic artifacts. Therefore we are working closely with the Anthropology and Archeology Branch to minimize and hopefully eliminate impacts. A strong cultural resource education program will be provided to public volunteers and park staff involved in the Facelift project. The following procedures will be implemented during and before the Facelift.

- Supervisors of special projects will be made aware of cultural resource issues within their project areas and receive cultural resource education. This will include daily archeology briefings and involvement in site monitoring and condition assessments. In addition, we will provide all volunteers that are

interested in learning more about historic and cultural resources with a half day cultural resource training. These volunteers will lead roadside clean-up crews and be responsible to identify and GPS potential historic artifacts.

- After the check-in and registration process, volunteers will be required to go through a cultural resource education station. Here volunteers will speak with NPS archeology staff, interact with cultural resource displays, and receive historic resource identification guides. In addition, qualified staff will direct volunteers to specific areas to clean-up and away from culturally sensitive locations.
- At the work assignment table, large maps will be displayed marking designated clean-up locations for volunteers. Maps will also show volunteers areas where they must avoid collecting trash. In some cases, a group leader with resource education training will accompany volunteers working in potentially sensitive areas.
- After they pick up trash, volunteers will return to the registration centers where trash will be weighed and separated for recyclables. Additionally, all trash (except that with human waste) collected by volunteers will be sorted by trained archeologists to identify any cultural resources. Volunteers will remain for trash sorting in order to find locations of inadvertently removed historic objects. Any cultural resources will be documented and collected for curation or documented and discarded according to research potential.
- Prior to the event, comprehensive cultural resource assessments for areas of potential effect, including special project areas and high-use areas, such as road, trail, and river corridors will be conducted. Assessments will include records searches (of associated historical references, site and survey databases, and cultural resource reports), archeological survey, inventory, documentation, and monitoring (where necessary), consultation with interested parties, and prescription of treatment recommendations for resource protection (such as avoidance, monitoring, volunteer stewardship, and education).
- If archeological material is found all work will stop in that location and the park's branch of cultural resources will work with the compliance office to take appropriate actions and notify the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- Park will designate trained volunteers to be located at known archeological sites to prevent unauthorized collection of artifacts.