



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617 (YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Brian Mattos, Project Manager, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2007-009 Parkwide 2007 Forestry Work Plan

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 E (3) - *Removal of individual members of a non-threatened/endangered species or populations of pests and exotic plants that pose an imminent danger to visitors or an immediate threat to park resources.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. This project clearance is valid providing that you adhere to any conditions that may be stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//MJ Tollefson//
Michael J. Tollefson

8/24/07
Date

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

(Version: OCT06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-009

PEPC Project Number: 17246

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Parkwide 2007 Forestry Work Plan

Location: Parkwide, Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Madera Counties, California

Project Manager: Brian Mattos, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 E (3) - *Removal of individual members of a non-threatened/endangered species or populations of pests and exotic plants that pose an imminent danger to visitors or an immediate threat to park resources.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. Environmental impacts will be negligible or less when the project is implemented with the conditions stipulated under **Project Mitigations and Conditions** in **Section I** at the end of the attached *Environmental Screening Form*.

Additional supporting information for this determination and the stipulated conditions can be found in the following attachments (when checked):

- Environmental Screening Form*
- Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)*
- Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- Other:

C. DECISION

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 or conditions in DO12 3.5 or 3.6 apply and the action is fully described in DO12, Section 3.4.

//MJ Tollefson//
Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent

8/24/07
Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

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

Attachments (2)

Environmental Screening Form

(Version: NOV06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-009

PEPC Project Number: 17246

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Parkwide 2007 Forestry Work Plan

Location: Parkwide, Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Madera Counties, California

Project Manager: Brian Mattos, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The National Park Service has superior knowledge of tree hazards and has a duty to inspect developed facilities and make them safe [from tree hazards] or provide warnings (Middaugh vs. U.S.). Pacific West Region Directive PWR-062 has been temporarily/partially suspended while conflicts between rating systems used by parks in California and Washington are resolved, but it also requires that tree hazard conditions be detected and abated or mitigated regularly. The Forestry Worker Supervisors, Park Forester, and contractors systematically inspect intensively managed areas for tree hazards, prescribe tree hazard mitigation or abatement for trees with outwardly visible defects, and implement mitigation or abatement as soon as reasonably practicable, often concurrently. Supervisors evaluate pruning, topping, and removal options that might preserve important habitat or cultural landscape components prior to takedown. Comprehensive tree hazard management also requires warning visitors and residents that trees within Yosemite may fail. Seasonal warnings had been provided in the Yosemite Guide, and alternative media/methods are needed to warn visitors, workers, and residents of tree risks.

Park forestry staff conduct surveillance and rating or review and approve or negotiate work prescribed by arborists contracted by concessioners or utility companies. Park forestry staff determine whether woody debris can be recycled in place, and if not, whether disposal should be through government channels (including administrative use) or by contract. Contractors may perform some pruning, takedown, removal, and rehabilitation with close administration by designated Contracting Officer's Representatives. Park forestry staff review scheduled work locations and consult other park program managers to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive park resources. Areas that are closed seasonally are generally worked prior to public opening. Nuisance or other approved non-hazard tree work will be scheduled as prioritized tree hazard workload allows. Park forestry staff consult with cultural resource specialists prior to significant work on trees in cultural landscapes, key vista areas, or in archeological sites or traditional gathering areas to avoid adverse effects. Spill prevention and response plans have been prepared to avoid pollution by petroleum products. Job Hazard Analysis reports and Material Safety Data Sheets have been compiled. Wetlands and other sensitive ecological resources are avoided when possible or resource specialists are consulted.

For tree work within the bed and banks of US Waters or a designated Wild and Scenic River, park forestry staff will obtain additional consultation, and possibly additional compliance documentation may be required. Groups of more than three trees in the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor trigger consultations per CE 2001-148 (as amended). Off-highway equipment shall be cleaned and inspected prior to entry, and may require cleaning between work sites. Best Management Practices including Forest Practice Rules guide tree work. Work in the Yosemite Wilderness or Potential Wilderness Additions beyond routine tree hazard mitigation trigger Minimum Requirement Analysis. Since the Park Forester has been attending the monthly open house and meeting with the Sierra Club and Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center representatives, no controversy over tree hazard management or timber sales has arisen.

Timber sales in recent years removed an average of 2,275 tons of logs from roadsides which were sawn into boards, and 200 tons of logs were transported to park firewood yards. Logs were also provided for bridge repairs and for historic preservation projects.

Table B1 – Background Information

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Park Forester and the Facilities Management staff.
2a. Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2b. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2c. Is the project consistent with that plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2d. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3a. Are there any interested or affected parties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4b. Has consultation been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Table B2 – Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.)

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS

Are any impacts possible on the following resources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. From geohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary air emissions during forestry work.
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary noises during forestry work.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Stream flow characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: groups of three trees or more will trigger consultation with natural resources staff.
7. Marine or estuarine resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: wetlands are avoided when possible; if project areas include wetlands, consultation with resource specialists is required.
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project; see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible; see Condition 2, Section D. Mandatory Criteria, below.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Energy resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspection of tree hazards in intensively managed areas is an important aspect of the park's long-term management of resources.
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; see Condition 1, below.
2. Have adverse effects on such unique 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; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Section F, Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Condition 2, below.
15. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Condition 2, below.
16. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. Develop and submit a Safety Plan to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 209-379-1079) for review and approval before beginning any project work or contractor work.
2. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355.

E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect, are there:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-Status Species Checklist must be completed and attached.				
Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

F. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Will there be ground disturbance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potentially projects will involve ground disturbance.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Projects will avoid impacts to cultural resources.
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Native American Liaison will be consulted prior to work in traditional areas.
4. Is there a historic property (a building, structure, feature, or all or any part of an archeological district or site, or a historic district or site, or any associated landscape element) that is listed or eligible for listing on the <i>National Register</i> ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parkwide project work will occur within historic properties; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
5. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
6. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
7. Is there any cultural resource requiring an evaluation of eligibility as a historic property under NHPA, Section 106, before an affect determination can be made?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
8. Would there be alteration of any historic property or associated landscape element covered by 2-7, above?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
If "yes" to <u>any</u> of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST

Is the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Within designated Wilderness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST

Does the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? If 'yes', name the river(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Merced and Tuolumne River.
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural resource specialists will be consulted when work is within the bed and banks of the river. If necessary, additional compliance will be completed.
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Diminish or other wise change the values for which the river was designated as a Wild and Scenic River? If "yes", explain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. If 5a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5c. If 5a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to questions 2, 5b, or 5c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.				

Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

I. NEPA Analysis and Approval Conditions

When implemented as detailed in the project description and following all Project Mitigations and Conditions listed below, this project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

DO12 3.4 E (3) - *Removal of individual members of a non-threatened/endangered species or populations of pests and exotic plants that pose an imminent danger to visitors or an immediate threat to park resources.*

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

- 1. Develop and submit a Safety Plan to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 209-379-1079) for review and approval before beginning any project work or contractor work.**
- 2. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355.**

This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

//Renea Kennec//

Compliance Specialist **8/16/07**
Date

//Mark A. Butler//

Compliance Program Manager **8/20/07**
Date

//Bill Delaney//

Chief, Project Management **8/22/07**
Date

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

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-009

PEPC Project Number: 17246

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Parkwide Forestry Work Plan

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Parkwide, Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Madera Counties, California

Variable throughout park

Project Manager: Brian Mattos, Facilities Management, Yosemite National Park

Project Description: The National Park Service has superior knowledge of tree hazards and has a duty to inspect developed facilities and make them safe [from tree hazards] or provide warnings (Middaugh vs. U.S.). Pacific West Region Directive PWR-062 has been temporarily/partially suspended while conflicts between rating systems used by parks in California and Washington are resolved, but it also requires that tree hazard conditions be detected and abated or mitigated regularly. The Forestry Worker Supervisors, Park Forester, and contractors systematically inspect intensively managed areas for tree hazards, prescribe tree hazard mitigation or abatement for trees with outwardly visible defects, and implement mitigation or abatement as soon as reasonably practicable, often concurrently. Supervisors evaluate pruning, topping, and removal options that might preserve important habitat or cultural landscape components prior to takedown. Comprehensive tree hazard management also requires warning visitors and residents that trees within Yosemite may fail. Seasonal warnings had been provided in the Yosemite Guide, and alternative media/methods are needed to warn visitors, workers, and residents of tree risks.

Park forestry staff conduct surveillance and rating or review and approve or negotiate work prescribed by arborists contracted by concessioners or utility companies. Park forestry staff determine whether woody debris can be recycled in place, and if not, whether disposal should be through government channels (including administrative use) or by contract. Contractors may perform some pruning, takedown, removal, and rehabilitation with close administration by designated Contracting Officer's Representatives. Park forestry staff review scheduled work locations and consult other park program managers to avoid adverse impacts to sensitive park resources. Areas that are closed seasonally are generally worked prior to public opening. Nuisance or other approved non-hazard tree work will be scheduled as prioritized tree hazard workload allows. Park forestry staff consult with cultural resource specialists prior to significant work on trees in cultural landscapes, key vista areas, or in archeological sites or traditional gathering areas to avoid adverse effects. Spill prevention and response plans have been prepared to avoid pollution by petroleum products. Job Hazard Analysis reports and Material Safety Data Sheets have been compiled. Wetlands and other sensitive ecological resources are avoided when possible or resource specialists are consulted. For tree work within the bed and banks of US Waters or a designated Wild and Scenic River, park forestry staff will obtain additional consultation, and possibly additional compliance documentation may be required. Groups of more than three trees in the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor trigger consultations per CE 2001-148 (as amended). Off-highway equipment shall be cleaned and inspected prior to entry, and may require cleaning between work sites. Best Management Practices including Forest Practice Rules guide tree work. Work in the Yosemite Wilderness or Potential Wilderness Additions beyond routine tree

hazard mitigation trigger Minimum Requirement Analysis. Since the Park Forester has been attending the monthly open house and meeting with the Sierra Club and Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center representatives, no controversy over tree hazard management or timber sales has arisen. Timber sales in recent years removed an average of 2,275 tons of logs from roadsides which were sawn into boards, and 200 tons of logs were transported to park firewood yards. Logs were also provided for bridge repairs and for historic preservation projects.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
b. Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Sample	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. List of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**** Sensitive documents not for duplication or distribution beyond park management, subject matter experts, and the project statutory compliance file.**

B. DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify historic properties? If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined on a case by case basis.
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To be determined on a case by case basis.

2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affected?		Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No	
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected?		Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No	
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
• Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Replace historic features/elements in kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Projects will be designed to avoid impact to cultural resources.
• Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Projects will be designed to avoid impact to cultural resources.
• Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Potentially affect presently unidentified historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. Describe any measures that are incorporated as part of this project that will be taken to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of prehistoric or historic fabric, setting, integrity, or data:

Park forestry staff consult with cultural resource specialists prior to significant work on trees in cultural landscapes, key vista areas, or in archeological sites or traditional gathering areas to avoid adverse effects

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 07/10/07

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

C. SPECIALIST SECTION

Specialists: Your comments here (or attached) show that you have reviewed this proposal for conformity with requirements of *National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106*; with the 1995 *Service-wide Programmatic Agreement* (if applicable); with applicable parts of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; with the *NPS Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; and have given your best professional advice about this project and the issues relevant to the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties and further consultation needs.

Archeologist

Name: **Laura Kirn**

Date: 7/13/07

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved Yes: No:

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Archeologist: //Laura Kirn//

Cultural Anthropologist

Name: **Sonny Montague**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: _____

Curator

Name: **Jonathan Bayless**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: _____

Historian

Name: **Charles Palmer**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: _____

Historical Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: 7/17/07

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: "**No Adverse Effect**"

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historical Architect: //Sueann Brown//

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **Dave Humphrey**

Date: 7/17/07

Comments: None

Assessment of Effect: "**No Adverse Effect**"

Recommended Conditions: None

Signature of Historical Landscape Architect: //DT Humphrey//

Preservation Specialist

Name: **Rod Kenec**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: _____

Native American Liaison

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: _____

<Enter Specialist Title>

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of <Enter Specialist's Title>: _____

**D. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION AND PARK 106
COORDINATOR REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Review by specialists:** The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations in Section C, above.

The foregoing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS management policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.

Reviewed and Accepted by:

Signature: //Niki Stephanie Nicholas// **Date:** 7/17/07
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

- 2. Compliance Requirements:** The following is the park's assessment of Section 106 process needs and requirements for this undertaking.

Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Consultation under 36 CFR is needed subsequent to the preparation of this form and its review by appropriate historic resource management advisors.

Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV. A of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement, and is listed in Stipulation IV. B, as:

<Choose Type of Undertaking>

Plan-Related Undertaking

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement and 36 CFR Part 800.

Undertaking Related to Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under a document such as a statewide agreement written in accordance with 37 CFR Part 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Agreement: <Enter Agreement Information>

Flood-Recovery Related Undertaking

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the letter-based agreement between the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Council for Historic Preservation for "Highwater 97" flood repair and recovery

Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the park's 1999 programmatic agreement for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance; the undertaking meets the stipulations identified in Article VII.C.2.

3. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse Effect

4. Project Stipulations and Conditions

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effects above is consistent with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect or to mitigate potential adverse effects:

- a. None

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons// Date: 8/24/07

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the recommendations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.

Signature of Superintendent: //MJ Tollefson// Date: 8/24/07

Michael J. Tollefson

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