



A PDF text file of the project's approved environmental compliance package containing the letter of compliance completion, categorical exclusion form, environmental screening form, and any other associated environmental clearance forms, as applicable (e.g., Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis, Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Analysis). The signed originals of the package are on file in the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office at Yosemite National Park.

Letter of Compliance Completion

To: Katy Warner, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2020-109 Hodgdon Meadow NADP Monitor Relocation and Replacement (PEPC: 97119)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project and completed an impact analysis and documentation, and 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 to historic properties.
- 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.

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Project staff should comply with all applicable general conditions contained in the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #5 \(Scientific Measurement Devices\)](#) for the protection of the wetlands.
- The project occurs within a freshwater emergent wetland. Salvage meadow vegetation (sod) when hand-trenching between the rain gauge and the new sensor. Keep moist and replace after trenching is complete.
- There are no invasive plants mapped in the small footprint of disturbance, however patches of velvet grass, bull thistle, cheat grass and other low priority species (yellow salsify, red sorrel, mullein, foxglove, and smooth brome) occur between the road and the proposed work area or within 21 m. Please avoid moving through these areas if plants are seeding.
- Due to the potential for trampling, either a monitor from aquatics should come to assist, or the project lead should consult with aquatics before going into the field to know how to identify and avoid impacts.
- Compliance with food-storage and garbage disposal requirements must be achieved at all times.
- Equipment used at the site shall be pressure cleaned and free of weeds, seed, debris, and mud to prevent the introduction and/or spread of exotic, invasive plants.

There are no NHPA Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations identified.

Acting Superintendent: Cicely Muldoon **Date:** October 2, 2020
Cicely Muldoon

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Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Hodgdon Meadow NADP Monitor Relocation and Replacement

PEPC Project Number: 97119

Description of Action (Project Description):

The existing National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) precipitation chemistry monitoring site in Hodgdon Meadow is scheduled for an upgrade. The deposition sensor was originally installed in this location in 1981. A completely new sensor unit will replace the existing unit and will be installed about 15 meters from the current location to move it away from encroaching willows and the riparian area. The existing sensor has minimal anchoring and will be removed. The rain gauge will remain in its current location.

At the new location, a hole 12" in diameter and 18-24" deep will be excavated and filled with cement to create an anchor for the new sensor. The new sensor will be mounted on a single pole and should not exceed 5' in total height for ease of collection. A trench approximately 6" deep, 3" wide and 25' long will be dug from the rain gauge to the southwest to run wiring to the new sensor. Excavation work will be completed using hand tools.

The desired work window to complete this upgrade is late September or early October 2020.

The National Park Service Air Resources Division co-sponsors this site with the National Trends Network within the National Atmospheric Deposition Program. The NADP is co-located with the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin.

Site information: <http://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/data/sites/siteDetails.aspx?net=NTN&id=CA99>

National Atmospheric Deposition Program: <http://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/>

National Trends Network: <http://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/ntn/>

Mitigation(s):

See Letter of Compliance Completion Form for mitigations.

CE Citation: C.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

CE Justification:

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.

Acting Superintendent: Cicely Muldoon

Cicely Muldoon

Date: October 2, 2020

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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 longer applicable per the updated 2020 CEQ NEPA regulations and DOI direction. |
| 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: Hodgdon Meadow NADP Monitor Relocation and Replacement
PEPC Project Number: 97119
Project Type: Inventory and Monitoring (IM)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Katy Warner

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion Form for project description.

C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Air Air Quality | None | |
| Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species | Potential | Issue: Tools used for earthwork may contain foreign soil and seeds. Impact: Tools and equipment should be cleaned and free of soil and seeds prior to earthwork to prevent the spread of invasive plants. |
| Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat <i>Special status species</i> | Potential | Issue: Some special status species may exist in the project area. Impact: Project personnel will be trained by park Wildlife specialists to monitor for the presence of special status species during project implementation. |
| Biological Vegetation <i>Meadow</i> | Potential | Issue: Work involves trenching and hole digging in a meadow area. Impact: All trenching and digging will be accomplished using hand tools. Removed soil should be kept wet and should be replaced in the same location to the extent possible once work is complete. |
| Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat | None | |

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| including terrestrial and aquatic species | | |
| Cultural Archeological Resources <i>Archeological sites</i> | None | Impact: It is anticipated that ground disturbance for the project has a very low likelihood of disturbing subsurface cultural materials. See assessment of effect for more details. |
| Cultural Cultural Landscapes <i>Hodgdon Meadows Archeological District</i> | Potential | Issue: The project site is located within the Hodgdon Meadows Archeological District. Impact: The project is not expected to adversely affect any contributing elements to the archeological district. |
| Cultural Ethnographic Resources | None | |
| Cultural Museum Collections | None | |
| Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures | None | |
| Geological Geologic Features <i>Soils</i> | Potential | Issue: Some soil will be removed when trenching for power and digging the post hole. Impact: Minimal impact. All soil and vegetation will be put back in place following electrical cable installation. Only hand tools will be used to minimize impact. |
| Geological Geologic Processes | None | |
| Lightscapes Lightscapes | None | |
| Other Human Health and Safety | None | |
| Other Operational | None | |
| Other Other | None | |
| Socioeconomic Land Use | None | |
| Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, | None | |

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| size, migration patterns, etc. | | |
| Socioeconomic Socioeconomic | None | |
| Soundscapes Soundscapes | None | |
| Viewsheds Viewsheds | None | Impact: The new sensor is expected to have a smaller visual impact than the existing sensor. |
| Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources | None | |
| Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience | None | |
| Water Floodplains | None | |
| Water Marine or Estuarine Resources | None | |
| Water Water Quality or Quantity | None | |
| Water Wetlands <i>Wetlands</i> | Potential | Issue: Project occurs in a freshwater emergent wetland. Impact: Park staff have determined that the impact of this project on wetlands is low and may be covered by USACE Nationwide Permit #5 for scientific measurement devices. Vegetation and soils protection measures are outlined above. |
| Water Wild and Scenic River | None | |
| Wilderness Wilderness | None | |



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Hodgdon Meadow NADP Monitor Relocation and Replacement

Prepared by: Jessica Salesman **Date Prepared:** 09/23/2020 **Telephone:** 563-873-3491 x 142

PEPC Project Number: 97119

Locations:

County, State: Tuolumne, CA

Describe project:

See Categorical Exclusion Form for Project Description

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

The area of potential effect includes removal of the old NADP sensor and installation of the new sensor. Removal of the old sensor, which was installed in 1981, will not involve ground disturbance. The new sensor will be placed approximately 50 feet northeast of the existing sensor and will include a hole 12 inches in diameter and 18-24 inches deep will be excavated and filled with cement to create a permanent anchor for the new sensor. The new sensor will be mounted on a single pole and should not exceed 5 feet tall. A trench approximately 6 inches deep, 3 inches wide and 25 feet long will be dug from the rain gauge to the southwest to run wiring to the new sensor. Excavation work will be completed using hand tools. The current sensor has minimal anchoring and will be removed. The work will occur within a meadow area surrounded by willows and mixed conifer forest.

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 Present: Yes

Property Name: Hodgdon Meadow Archeological District **LCS:**

Historical Structures/Resources Present: No

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

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:

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Hope Schear

Date: 09/29/2020

Comments: Compliance complete. No HA/HLA review required.

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Liz Williams

Date: 09/28/2020

Comments: Please see archeologist comments.

No comments received in response to August tribal spreadsheet.

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: Wesley Wills

Date: 08/24/2020

Comments: The project area and surrounding locations were first archeologically surveyed in 1975 and were resurveyed in 1990 and 2008. The project area is within the Hodgdon Meadow Archeological District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Proposed ground disturbance will occur approximately 110 feet east of the eastern boundary of archeological site CA-TUO-0236. This site is a contributing element of the district and consists of a surface and subsurface deposit of a light lithic scatter, eight bedrock milling stations with a total of 178 milling surfaces, ground stone tools, and steatite. The site was heavily disturbed by construction of the employee housing area and associated roadways and utilities in 1966. Subsurface archeological study was completed at the site in 1962, 1987, and 1990 and included hand-excavated test pits and auger bores. The auger bores were placed up to 65 feet (approximately 20 meters) outside of the site boundaries, with no surface or subsurface material identified. This indicates that the assessment of the eastern site boundary is accurate, and no surface cultural materials have been identified outside of the boundaries during multiple follow-up surveys. It is anticipated that ground disturbance for the project has a very low likelihood of disturbing subsurface cultural materials and no additional archeological work is planned.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___No Potential to Cause Effect ___No Historic Properties Affected **X**No
Adverse Effect ___Adverse Effect ___Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, Other Advisor, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Potential to Cause Effects
_____ No Historic Properties Affected
X 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.)

[X] C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

☐ **D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process**

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

☐ **E. Memo to Project File**

3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: No

SHPO Sent:

SHPO Received:

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: 8/25/2020

THPO Received: No comments received after 30 days

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

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.)

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

No NHPA mitigations have been identified for this project.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

Action is covered by the 2020 Yosemite Parkwide Programmatic Agreement category 7: Placement of small-scale, temporary or permanent environmental and visitor-use monitoring units (e.g., weather stations, termite bait stations, water or air quality monitoring equipment, traffic and pedestrian counters/cameras, vegetation plots, or wildlife stations) using equipment and methods that avoid adverse effects to historic properties.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

NHPA Specialist

Hope Schear Hope Schear **Date:** October 1, 2020

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: Cicely Muldoon

Date: October 2, 2020

Cicely Muldoon

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Yosemite National Park.*



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park

PEPC Project Number: 97119

Project Title: Hodgdon Meadow NADP Monitor Relocation and Replacement

Project Type: Inventory and Monitoring

Project Location:

County, State: Tuolumne, CA

Project Leader: Katy Warner

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? Yes

If species in area: No Effect

Was Biological Assessment prepared?

If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?

Formal Consultation required? No

Formal Consultation Notes:

Yosemite toad: Roads BO (within appropriate distance of roads).

Formal Consultation Concluded:

Any State listed Species in the Project Area? Yes

Consultation Information: Great gray owls - - No Effect.

General Notes:

Data Entered By: Rachel Mazur

Date: Sep 16, 2020

ESA Mitigations

No ESA mitigations are associated with this project.

Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

| Question | Yes | No | Details |
|--|-----|----|--|
| A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area? | | No | Not in floodplain or flash flood hazard area. |
| A.2. Is Project in wetlands as defined by NPS/DOI? | Yes | | Determined to be exempt from compliance with Director's Order #77-1 and no Wetland Statement of Findings required. |
| B. COE Section 404 permit needed? | | No | Request Date: Nationwide Permit (see below) Issue Date: Expiration Date: |

| | | | |
|---|--|----|--|
| C. State 401 certification? | | No | |
| D. State Section 401 Permit? | | No | Issue Date: Expiration Date: |
| E. Tribal Water Quality Permit? | | No | |
| F. CZM Consistency determination needed? | | No | Date Review Requested: Date Reply Received: Date State Concurred: |
| G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required? | | No | |
| H. Any other permits required? | | No | Permit Information: |
| Other Information: | | | Park staff have determined that the project is covered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide 404 Permit #5. |

Data Entered By: Daniel Sharon **Date:** Sep 23, 2020

Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations

| Mitigation ID | Text |
|---------------|--|
| 107351 | Project staff should comply with all applicable general conditions contained in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #5 (Scientific Measurement Devices) for the protection of the wetlands. |

Notes: Project staff should comply with all applicable general conditions contained in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #5 (Scientific Measurement Devices) for the protection of the wetlands

Wilderness

| Question | Yes | No | |
|--|-----|----|--|
| A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? | | No | |
| B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness? | | No | |
| C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness? | | No | |
| D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required) | | No | |
| E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required) | | No | |
| If the answer to D or E above is "Yes" then a Minimum Requirements Analysis is required. Describe the status of this analysis in the column to the right. | | | Initiation Date: Completed Date: Approved Date: |
| Other Information: | | | |

Data Entered By: Daniel Sharon

Date: Sep 23, 2020

Other Permits/Laws *Questions A & B are no longer used.*

| Question | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist? | | No |
| D. National Trails concerns exist? | | No |
| E. Air Quality consult with State needed? | | No |
| F. Consistent with Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts or not Applicable? (If N/A check Yes) | | No |
| G. Other: | | No |

Other Information:

Data Entered By: Daniel Sharon

Date: Sep 23, 2020

Hodgdon Meadow NADP Sensor Pictures



Current NADP deposition sensor (above, foreground) and rain gauge (background)



Looking at rain gauge and sensor from proposed location for new sensor



N-CON NTN bucket collector

Replacement sensor (for scale is bucket 11" high, 12" wide)



- Legend**
- Buildings
 - <all other values>
 - Housing
 - Management Activities and Services
 - Utilities
 - Visitor Based Activities and Services
 - Minor Landmarks
 - Roads (Yosemite)
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Local
 - Parking Lot Road
 - Private
 - Service
 - 4WD
 - Unknown
 - Trails
 - Meadows (Yosemite)
 - Wetlands (NWI)

Notes

Blue dots indicate the current and proposed locations of the NADP sensors

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0.1 0 0.0 0.1 Miles

Source: DSC GIS Program
Datum/Projection: WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

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