



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: Randy Fong

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and Section 106 Clearance: 2008-031 Badger Pass Rehabilitate Eagle Lift (21147)

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

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and Section 106 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:

- Ensure that helicopters land only in the paved parking lot.
- Ensure that work areas are delineated by fences to avoid special plant populations; contact Lisa Acree, park Botanist 379-2177.
- Ensure that a natural resource monitor is on-site during project work; contact Judi Weaser, 379-3296.
- Prepare an aviation safety plan for helicopter use; contact Kelly Martin, 372-0325. Helicopter should fly the road corridors or otherwise avoid wilderness.
- Ensure that a contractor's safety plan is submitted to the park Safety Office; contact Roger Farmer, 379-1079.

//Larry Harris// acting

Michael J. Tollefson

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.*



National Park Service

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2008-031 Badger Pass Rehabilitate Eagle Lift

PIN: 21147

Date: May 20, 2008

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate aspects of the Eagle chair lift to insure safe operation during aerial lift transport of visitors and staff. The replacement of components are in-kind which meet current industry standards and will not change the exterior look of Eagle Lift, nor affect the existing landscape. The life expectancy of the Eagle lift components has been met and replacement is required before winter operation of 2008/09. Scope of Work to include: Replace 150 carriers, including: chairs, bails, retention bar, and seat pads. Replace 150 grips on all carriers to stabilize and prevent cracking. Replace the grips, which attach the carrier to the lift cable, with new cast steel grips with greater gripping power and longevity. Rebuild all seventeen (17) tower sheave assemblies to replace damaged aluminum sheaves, rocker assembly, and axel bushings to insure safe operation. Damage is due to the design of the drive terminal, which causes carriers to constantly wear down the components that allow the carriers to safely attach and transport skiers to the top of the Eagle ski run. New sheave assemblies will retrofit to existing towers, eliminating the need to replace or modify towers. All vehicles entering Yosemite National Park will adhere to the Division 1 Specifications for spreading noxious weeds. All equipment will be cleaned and checked prior to entering the Park. Project headquarters will be located at the Badger Pass maintenance facility. Two large staging areas will be located in the main parking areas. A helicopter will be staged in the upper parking lot and utilized for 5 days to remove and replace the sheave assemblies (and prevent meadow disruption).

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA, Badger Pass

Mitigations:

- Ensure that helicopters land only in the paved parking lot.
- Ensure that work areas are delineated by fences to avoid special plant populations; contact Lisa Acree, park Botanist 379-2177.
- Ensure that a natural resources monitor is on-site during project work; contact Judi Weaser, 379-3296.
- Prepare an aviation safety plan for helicopter use; contact Kelly Martin, 372-0325. Helicopter should fly the road corridors or otherwise avoid wilderness.
- Ensure that a contractor's safety plan is submitted to the park Safety Office, contact Roger Farmer, 379-1079.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.3. Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds, and trails.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

//Larry Harris// acting _____
Park Superintendent

_____ *5/13/08* _____
Date

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the Environmental Planning and Compliance
Office in Yosemite National Park.*



National Park Service

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

(Revised June 2004, per DM)

Today's Date: **April 24, 2008**

Date Form Initiated: **04/24/2008**

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2008-029 Badger Pass Rehabilitate Eagle Lift**

PEPC Project Number: **21147**

Project Type: **Facility Maintenance (FM)**

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California** District: **Badger Pass**

Project Leader: **Randy Fong**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate aspects of the Eagle chair lift to insure safe operation during aerial lift transport of visitors and staff. The replacement of components are in kind which meet current industry standards and will not change the exterior look of Eagle Lift, nor affect the existing landscape. The life expectancy of the Eagle lift components has been met and replacement is required before winter operation of 2008/09. Scope of Work to include: Replace 150 carriers, including: chairs, bails, retention bar, and seat pads. Replace 150 grips on all carriers to stabilize and prevent cracking. Replace the grips, which attach the carrier to the lift cable, with new cast steel grips with greater gripping power and longevity. Rebuild all seventeen (17) tower sheave assemblies to replace damaged aluminum sheaves, rocker assembly, and axel bushings to insure safe operation. Damage is due to the design of the drive terminal, which causes carriers to constantly wear down the components that allow the carriers to safely attach and transport skiers to the top of the Eagle ski run. New sheave assemblies will retrofit to existing towers, eliminating the need to replace or modify towers. All vehicles entering Yosemite National Park will adhere to the Division 1 Specifications for spreading noxious weeds. All equipment will be cleaned and checked prior to entering the Park. Project headquarters will be located at the Badger Pass maintenance facility. Two large staging areas will be located in the main parking areas. A helicopter will be staged in the upper parking lot and utilized for 5 days to remove and replace the sheave assemblies (and prevent meadow disruption).

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	X				
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality	X				
4. Soundscapes		X			Project involves helicopter use for five days during removal and replacement of the sheave assemblies.
5. Water quality or quantity	X				
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	X				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	X				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implicating this project; see section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				The project specifically states that vehicles

					entering the park will adhere to the Division 1 Specifications regarding noxious weeds.
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X			
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				
18. Archeological resources	X				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	X				
20. Cultural landscapes	X				Badger Pass has been identified and managed as a historic district. Cultural Landscape Inventory/Cultural Landscape Resources is being prepared. The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
21. Ethnographic resources	X				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality,	X				

gateway communities, etc.					
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

Comments:

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X		
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?		X		Mitigated; this project is routine maintenance and will not impact any park resources.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2) (E))?		X		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		

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?		X		
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?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X		
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)?		X		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **Yes, Project Management staff.**

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **No**

F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

Interdisciplinary Team	Field of Expertise
Michael Tollefson	Superintendent
Kevin Cann	Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Bill Delaney	Chief of Project Management
Larry Harris	Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Chief of Maintenance
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Chris Stein	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Randy Fong	Project Leader
Mark Butler	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

G. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>5/1/08</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Mark Butler	<u>5/1/08</u>
<u>//Bill Delaney//</u> Chief, Project Management – Bill Delaney	<u>5/6/08</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Larry Harris// acting</u> Michael Tollefson	<u>5/13/08</u>

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



National Park Service

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite NP Park District: Badger Pass

2. **Project Description:**

a. Project Name: 2008-031 Badger Pass Rehabilitate Eagle Lift Date: April 9, 2008 Park Project Number: 21147

b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c]).

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate aspects of the Eagle chair lift to insure safe operation during aerial lift transport of visitors and staff. The replacements of components are in kind which meet current industry standards and will not change the exterior look of Eagle Lift, nor affect the existing landscape. The life expectancy of the Eagle lift components has been met and replacement is required before winter operation of 2008/09.

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All vehicles entering Yosemite National Park will adhere to the Division 1 Specifications for spreading noxious weeds. All equipment will be cleaned and checked prior to entering the Park.

Project headquarters will be located at the Badger Pass maintenance facility. Two large staging areas will be located in the main parking areas. A helicopter will be staged in the upper parking lot and utilized for 5 days to remove and replace the sheave assemblies (and prevent meadow disruption).

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

No

Yes Source or reference Badger Pass is identified and managed as a historic district while CLI/CLR is in prep.

Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

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

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify)

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:

(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

7. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments: Maps Archeological survey, if applicable Drawings Specifications

Photographs Scope of Work Site plan List of Materials Samples

Other _____

Prepared by Jeannette Simons Date: 4/9/08

Title: Historic Preservation Officer Telephone: 209-379-1372

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisers as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] ARCHEOLOGIST

Name: Sonny Montague

Date: 04/16/08

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]

Assessment of Effect: X No Historic Properties Affected _____ No Adverse Effect
_____ Adverse Effect _____ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None

[] CURATOR

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: _____ No Historic
Properties Affected _____ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect _____ Programmatic
Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[] ANTHROPOLOGIST

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: _____ No Historic
Properties Affected _____ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect _____ Programmatic
Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[] HISTORIAN

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: _____ No Historic
Properties Affected _____ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect _____ Programmatic

Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

[X] HISTORICAL ARCHITECT

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 04/08/2008

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___ No Historic Properties Affected x No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect
___ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None

[X] HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 04/09/2008

Comments: None.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ___ No Historic Properties Affected x No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect
___ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION RECOMMENDATIONS

Review by specialists: The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations above.

The comments and recommendations for the proposed action are 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:** 4/16/08
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

[] 106 Advisor

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [] Assessment of Effect: _____ No Historic

Properties Affected _____ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect _____ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Historic Properties Affected ___X___ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

B. PROGRAMMATIC EXCLUSION UNDER THE 1995 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV of the 1995 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE EXCLUSION: Exclusion IV.B
(Specify 1-13 or IV.C addition to the list of exclusions.)

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 1995 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.

Specify: _____ 1999 PA _____

E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

F. STIPULATIONS/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.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Jeannette Simons//

Date: 4/23/08

D. 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.

Signature of Superintendent //Larry Harris// acting

Date 5/13/08

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



**EAGLE LIFT DRIVE TERMINAL SHEAVE
ASSEMBLY - REPLACE IN LIFT REHABILITATION**

