



---

*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:** Rob Grasso, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** 2022\_151 NEPA and NHPA Clearance: Emergency Erosion Stabilization at White Wolf Meadow 2527 Post 2021 Lukens Fire (PEPC: 110209)

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:

- **TRIBAL MONITORING REQUIRED:** Please coordinate with the park Tribal Monitoring Coordinator (209-379-1455) at least 2 months before ground-disturbing work is to occur. The monitoring coordinator will work with tribes to determine if monitoring is necessary in the context of competing monitoring priorities at the time of construction and develop a contracting strategy as necessary. Should a monitor be required, they will advise on the protection of tribal cultural values during construction. Please note that tribal cultural values are not limited to archeological sites and historic properties of religious and cultural significance. If the tribal monitor identifies threats or disturbances to value(s) of concern, they will work with NPS staff and construction crews to determine necessary protection measures which may include temporary work stoppage in the sensitive area, resource documentation, and flagging of avoidance areas. Tribal advisors must be incorporated into project planning communication and must be kept abreast of any construction delays or modifications.
- **INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES:** Notify Cultural Resources staff if inadvertent discoveries of cultural material are made during the project.
- Compliance with food-storage and garbage disposal requirements must be always achieved.
- **Spring 2023 • Terrestrial wildlife will conduct GGOW broadcast surveys March - June 1st. • Depending on the results of the broadcast surveys terrestrial wildlife will begin nest searching. Nest initiation could begin anytime between April and June 1st. Situational LOP • If terrestrial wildlife observes behavior that indicates nesting (female begging call) or find a nest, we will recommend a LOP March - Aug. 15th • If**

we do not detect GGOW or observe behavior that indicates no nesting, we will recommend a LOP March - June 1st • If we locate a nest that is greater than 1/4 mile from the project site, we will recommend a LOP March - June 1st

- Continue to coordinate with Vegetation branch ecological restoration staff to partner in implementing this project.
- Use track mats when accessing meadow with earthmoving equipment, clean/inspect equipment before entry into park, may need rare plant survey.
- Prior to working in the meadow, all workers shall check boots, equipment, and tools for weed seeds, mud that could harbor weed seeds, and plant parts to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants.

**Superintendent Signature:** Cicely Muldoon **Date:** October 17, 2022



## Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

**Project:** Emergency Erosion Stabilization at White Wolf Meadow 2527 Post 2021 Lukens Fire

**PEPC Project Number:** 110209

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

This project proposes to implement emergency meadow soil and streambank erosional hardening features in meadow ID 2527 at White Wolf following the 2021 Lukens Fire. Hardening measures using primarily onsite materials include:

- 1.) Construction of a crib-wall log feature approximately 4 feet high by 4 feet wide and 6 feet long at one pond site mid-meadow where deep meadow soils burned. This crib wall feature using logs cut from downed trees in the meadow 6-10" (dbh) will ensure a pond in the meadow will not fail from shear stress from hydraulic pressure exerted on a weakened (burned) side wall where the crib wall feature will be placed by hand and partially embedded in the soil.
- 2.) Stabilization of the main perennial stream channel mid meadow where a headcut has newly formed from deeply burned soils and toppled uprooted trees at risk of further erosion from higher water flows. Approximately 12 -24, 4-foot wooden (1" x 2" cedar) stakes will be staked in the center and just upstream of the headcut to act as slash anchor points, Slash generated from cut logs used in the crib wall feature will be strategically placed around the anchored stakes to act as erosion control and water velocity dissipaters to slow erosion. Additionally, willow cuts will be taken from within the meadow and plugged into areas between the stakes and slash to further stabilize and slow the headcut.
- 3.) Lastly, soil plugs and sod may be collected from within vegetated unburned areas within the meadow boundary and placed into bare (i.e., burned) areas of the meadow.

All remaining burned areas within the meadow will be monitored by establishing 1m x 1m plots (using PVC and corner markers - e.g., rebar with caps) and photo point monitoring to monitor natural regeneration of vegetation and succession in the meadow. The main headcut will also be delineated with markers to track the erosion or stabilization of the feature. All three-emergency erosional hardening features should be expected to take one week to construct. All future meadow monitoring should be expected to last at least the next 3-5 years and likely beyond.

**Mitigation(s):**

See Letter of Compliance Completion

**CE Citation:** 3.3.G.1 (2015) post-fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities must comply with the following (Refer to the ESM Series for additional, required guidance.) (1) Shall be conducted consistent with bureau and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans; (2) Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and (3) Shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire.

**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.**

**Superintendent Signature:** Cicely Muldoon **Date:** October 17, 2022

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Explanation
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	None
<b>B.</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	None
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	None
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	None
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	None
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	N/A	None
<b>G.</b> 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	None
<b>H.</b> 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	None
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	None
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	None
<b>K.</b> 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	None
<b>L.</b> 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	None



---

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** Emergency Erosion Stabilization at White Wolf Meadow 2527 Post 2021 Lukens Fire  
**PEPC Project Number:** 110209  
**PMIS Number:**  
**Project Type:** Fire - BAER/BAR (BAER)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Tuolumne, California  
**Project Leader:** Rob Grasso

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes to implement emergency meadow soil and streambank erosional hardening features in meadow ID 2527 at White Wolf following the 2021 Lukens Fire. Hardening measures using primarily onsite materials include:

- 1.) Construction of a crib-wall log feature approximately 4 feet high by 4 feet wide and 6 feet long at one pond site mid-meadow where deep meadow soils burned. This crib wall feature using logs cut from downed trees in the meadow 6-10" (dbh) will ensure a pond in the meadow will not fail from shear stress from hydraulic pressure exerted on a weakened (burned) side wall where the crib wall feature will be placed by hand and partially embedded in the soil.
- 2.) Stabilization of the main perennial stream channel mid meadow where a headcut has newly formed from deeply burned soils and toppled uprooted trees at risk of further erosion from higher water flows. Approximately 12 -24, 4-foot wooden (1" x 2" cedar) stakes will be staked in the center and just upstream of the headcut to act as slash anchor points, Slash generated from cut logs used in the crib wall feature will be strategically placed around the anchored stakes to act as erosion control and water velocity dissipaters to slow erosion. Additionally, willow cuts will be taken from within the meadow and plugged into areas between the stakes and slash to further stabilize and slow the headcut.
- 3.) Lastly, soil plugs and sod may be collected from within vegetated unburned areas within the meadow boundary and placed into bare (i.e., burned) areas of the meadow.

All remaining burned areas within the meadow will be monitored by establishing 1m x 1m plots (using PVC and corner markers - e.g., rebar with caps) and photo point monitoring to monitor natural regeneration of vegetation and succession in the meadow. The main headcut will also be delineated with markers to track the erosion or stabilization of the feature. All three emergency erosional hardening features should be expected to take one week to construct. All future meadow monitoring should be expected to last at least the next 3-5 years and likely beyond.

## C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	None
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	None
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat <i>Sierra Nevada</i> <i>Yellow Legged</i> <i>Frog</i>	None	None
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	Potential	Issue: Restoration work will involve manipulation of vegetation  Impact: Plants may be dug up and transferred into areas such as social trails or inappropriate campsites that restoration crews are closing.
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	Potential	Issue: [REDACTED]; the fire has impacted known breeding areas. One pond is in danger of collapsing due to the extreme fire activity that burned many feet of peat down into the meadow.  Impact: This project will restore the critical habit of the SNYLF and reinforce breeding ponds.
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	None	None
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	None
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	None
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	None
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	Issue: In 1957 the main water and sewer system for the White Wolf area was constructed.  Impact: The remaining parts of this now defunct water system will be removed as part of the meadow restoration.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	None

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	None
<b>Lightscares</b>	None	None
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	None
<b>Other</b> Operational	None	None
<b>Other</b>	None	None
<b>Paleontological</b> Paleontological Resources	None	None
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	None
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low- income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	None
<b>Socioeconomic</b>	None	None
<b>Soundscapes</b>	None	None
<b>Viewsheds</b>	None	None
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	None
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b>	None	None
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	None
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	None
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	None



<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Water Wetlands</b>	Potential	<p>Issue: Restoration activities may take place in wetland areas.</p> <p>Impact: The building of the crib wall can be accomplished under USACE General Permit #08 and Region General Permit #8. Wetland areas are delicate and may contain threatened or endangered species. Some work in wetlands may require compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Restoration staff will take extra care in wetland areas.</p>
<b>Water Wild and Scenic River</b>	None	None
<b>Wilderness</b>	None	None

**Section 106 Coordinator  
Signature:**

Hope Schear

**Date:**

October 12, 2022

**Superintendent Signature:**

Cicely Muldoon

**Date:**

October 17, 2022



## Other Compliance/Consultations Form

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park

**PEPC Project Number:** 110209

**Project Title:** Emergency Erosion Stabilization at White Wolf Meadow 2527 Post 2021 Lukens Fire

**Project Type:** Fire - BAER/BAR

**Project Location:County, State:** Tuolumne, CA

**Project Leader:** Rob Grasso

### ESA

**Any Federal Species in the project Area?** Yes

**If species in area:** Not Likely to Adversely Affect

**Was Biological Assessment prepared?**

**If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?**

**Formal Consultation required?** No

**Formal Consultation Notes:**

This is not currently considered fisher habitat, if individuals are detected terrestrial wildlife will contact the project manager.

**Formal Consultation Concluded:**

**Any State listed Species in the Project Area?** Yes

**Consultation Information:** Great gray owls' nest near the project area. Terrestrial wildlife will perform surveys in the spring to determine if owls are breeding in the area. If a nest is located, a 400-meter buffer prohibiting heavy machinery usage will be implemented March 1 - August 15.

**General Notes:**

**Data Entered By:** Heather Mackey

**Date:** Jul 7, 2022

### 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?	Yes	Completed under General Order 8 for emergency action. Additional permitting will be sot to complete larger restoration action.

Question	Yes/No	Details
<b>C. State 401 certification?</b>	Yes	Completed under Regional General Order 8 for emergency action to complete crib wall. An additional permit will be sot to larger restoration action.
<b>D. State Section 401 Permit?</b>		<b>Issue Date:</b> <b>Expiration Date:</b>
<b>E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?</b>	No	None
<b>F. CZM Consistency determination needed?</b>	No	<b>Date Review Requested:</b> <b>Date Reply Received:</b> <b>Date State Concurred:</b>
<b>G. Erosion &amp; Sediment Control Plan Required?</b>	No	None
<b>H. Any other permits required?</b>	No	<b>Permit Information:</b>
<b>Other Information:</b>	Yes	The emergency crib wall will be built in the fall of 2022 under USACE General Permit 8 and RWQCB General Permit 8. A small habitat restoration permit will be applied for in winter 2023.

**Data Entered By:** Kirstie Dunbar-Kari

**Date:** October 4, 2022

### Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations

Mitigation ID	Text
134578	Use track mats when accessing meadow with earthmoving equipment, clean/inspect equipment before entry into park, may need rare plant survey.

Use track mats when accessing meadow with earthmoving equipment, clean/inspect equipment before entry into park, may need rare plant survey.

### Wilderness

Question	Yes/No
<b>A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?</b>	No
<b>B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?</b>	No
<b>C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?</b>	No
<b>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)</b>	No
<b>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)</b>	No

Question	Yes/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.	No
Other Information:	No

**Data Entered By:** Kirstie Dunbar-Kari

**Date:** Oct 4, 2022

**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)	Yes
G. Other:	No

**Other Information:**

**Data Entered By:** Kirstie Dunbar-Kari

**Date:** Oct 4, 2022