

Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination

This chapter presents a review of all consultation and coordination efforts undertaken for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment.

Project Scoping History

Public scoping was initiated for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment on January 14, 2009, and the National Park Service accepted scoping comments through February 13, 2009. Two public meetings were held: a public open house on January 28, 2009 in the Valley Visitor Center Auditorium in Yosemite Valley and a public scoping meeting on Friday, February 6, 2009 in the Snow Flake Room at Badger Pass Ski Lodge. Written public scoping comments were received at the public scoping meetings, and by fax, email, U.S. mail, online through the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, and on comment forms that were available at Badger Pass Ski Lodge and Yosemite Lodge for the duration of the scoping period. Comment boxes were placed at the central area of the main ski lodge and at the tour activity desk of Yosemite Lodge. As a result of the public scoping period, the park received comments from 40 individuals and 4 organizations. The analysis of these letters identified almost 200 discrete comments, from which 78 general concern statements were generated.

Based on internal and public scoping comments and applicable federal law, regulations, and executive orders, the National Park Service determined that an environmental assessment would be the appropriate level of compliance for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project. Public scoping comments and issues raised by National Park Service staff were used in the alternatives development process and the analysis presented in this environmental assessment.

Agency Consultation

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The National Park Service is coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding wetland permitting for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project. The National Park Service will submit a Section 404 wetland fill permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project, and this permit would be in place prior to project implementation.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

The National Park Service is currently coordinating with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain a water quality certification for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.) requires all federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat. The National Park Service obtained a list of federally listed endangered and

threatened species that may be present in the Badger Pass area in August 2008 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and an updated list was obtained in August 2009. These lists were used as the basis for the special status species analysis in this environmental assessment. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue, as defined by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as environmental compliance for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project is finalized.

California State Historic Preservation Officer/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

A Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service at Yosemite, the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance was developed in consultation with Native American tribes having cultural association with Yosemite National Park and was executed in October 1999 (NPS 1999). Pursuant to Article VI of the 1999 Programmatic Agreement (1999 PA), the review process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, a historic structure report and a cultural landscape report for the Badger Pass Ski Lodge and Badger Pass Ski Area were prepared in early 2009. Subsequently, a determination of eligibility was prepared for the Badger Pass Ski Area Historic Site in August 2009. A letter dated October 13, 2009 requesting comment and concurrence for the determination of eligibility was provided to the California State Historic Preservation Officer. A letter of SHPO concurrence with the determination of eligibility for the Badger Pass Ski Area Historic Site dated December 29, 2009 was received by the National Park Service in January 2010.

Additionally, although further review is not required for this document per Article VII(C) of the 1999 PA (given that the proposed actions will have no adverse effect and do not meet the provisions of Stipulation VIII(B) for required consultation), the National Park Service has provided a copy of this environmental assessment to the California State Historic Preservation Officer. The Yosemite Section 106 Coordinator has reviewed the undertaking per the 1999 PA and the National Park Service ensures that decisions regarding this undertaking have been made and will be carried out in conformance with the standards and guidelines in the PA stipulations. The National Park Service will continue to communicate with the California State Historic Preservation Officer through design and construction of the project as necessary.

American Indian Consultation

Yosemite National Park is consulting with American Indian tribes having cultural association with the Badger Pass area, including the North Fork Mono Rancheria, the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians (Yokuts), and the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation), on proposed actions under the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project.

Consultation with the North Fork Mono Rancheria included meetings held on May 19, 2009 and January 6, 2010. Consultation with the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians (Yokuts) included a meeting held on September 28, 2009. Consultation with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation) included meetings held on August 11, 2009 and November 3, 2009. A 95% draft of an ethnographic report developed for this rehabilitation project was provided to the American Indian tribes for review and comment on November 13, 2009. In addition, a copy of the administrative review draft of this environmental

assessment was provided to the American Indian tribes on November 19, 2009 for review and comment.

The American Indian tribes will also receive copies of this environmental assessment for review and comment. Consultation and partnering will continue with the American Indian tribes throughout the planning and implementation of the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project.

Future Information

Updated information about various aspects of the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project will be periodically distributed via newsletters, mailings, the Yosemite National Park website (<http://www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/badgerlodge.htm>), and regional and local news media.

There will be a 30-day public comment period on this environmental assessment.

Readers are encouraged to submit comments electronically through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system. A link to PEPC can be found on the project website, above, or directly at <http://www.parkplanning.gov/yose> (click on the 'Open for Comment' link and select 'Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment').

Written comments regarding this document should be directed to:

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Project
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389
Fax: 209-379-1294

To request a printed copy or CD of this environmental assessment (available in limited quantity), please email: Yose_Planning@nps.gov.

List of Agencies, Organizations, and Businesses that Received the Badger Pass Ski Lodge Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment

American Indian Council of Mariposa
Blue Heron Sports
California State Historic Preservation Office
Central Sierra Environmental Resource
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board
Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts at Yosemite
El Portal Public Library
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Mariposa County Public Library
Mariposa County Visitors Bureau
Mariposa Gazette
North Fork Mono Rancheria
National Park Service – Pacific West Region
National Park Service – Yosemite National Park Archives
National Park Service – Yosemite National Park Research Library
Oakhurst Public Library
Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter, Yosemite Committee
Sierra Club San Diego Chapter
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Yosemite Winter Club