



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: Tony Brocchini

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2007-055 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair (2009-2013) (18131)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action 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 NHPA 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:

- Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair Project Description.
- To avoid the spread of non-native, invasive plant and animal species, all fill, mulch, reseed, and sod material brought into the park must be 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 1335 and the Invasive Plant Management Plan for Yosemite National Park. Equipment coming in from outside the park will be pressure washed before leaving any paved surface. All earthwork related equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival at the project or staging areas to minimize the importation of non-native plants. Equipment must be re-cleaned before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.

//David Uberuaga//

David V. Uberuaga

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 Form

Project: 2007-055 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair (2009-2013)

PIN: 18131

Date: June 16, 2010

Project Description: This categorical exclusion document (CE) will serve as a formal record for routine road maintenance and repair activities for the years 2009-2013. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) directs agencies to use CEs for actions "which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which are therefore exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental impact statement" (40 CFR §1500-1508). This project is categorically exempt under NPS Director's Order #12, Action 3.4 C(9): Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists. The activities covered by this programmatic CE are necessary to ensure visitor safety and enjoyment, and to promote resource protection by preserving the existing road infrastructure. This CE is intended to cover: repair of existing potholes, sinkholes, cracks, asphalt, concrete and stone curbs, guard walls, and traffic control devices; replacement in kind and repair of pavement markers, culverts, and road drainage structures, such as outflows; repair of guard walls; sanding and sealing of roadways; and snow and ice control and removal. Also covered by this CE are removal of brush and woody vegetation from roadsides, headwalls, culverts, drainage ditches and channels; removal of fallen trees, rocks, and flood debris from the existing road prism; and repair to sections of the shoulder where erosion has compromised road integrity. The maintenance and repair activities covered by this CE are limited to the existing road prism, except where repairs to the existing road bed or shoulder require work in previously disturbed areas adjacent to the road prism (i.e., turn outs). The road prism is defined as: all parts of a road including cut banks, roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, road shoulders, guard walls, and road fills. This CE is intended to be a road maintenance/repair agreement and is not intended to cover more extensive road rehabilitation or reconstruction projects, such as culvert upgrades, road realignments, rehabilitation of bridges, and rehabilitation or reconstruction of guard walls. This programmatic CE will exclude all Routine Road Maintenance and Repair Activities listed in this document from further compliance for the term of this CE. The roads covered under this CE include all paved and unpaved roads within Yosemite National Park that are not located within designated Wilderness.

Consultation Procedures

This programmatic CE is subject to annual review. Project proponents and responsible parties will submit an annual workplan for all non-routine work to be performed under this programmatic CE each year to the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office (EPCO). Consultation with the appropriate subject-matter experts will be determined by the nature of the activity. Any work proposed outside of the existing road prism must be reviewed by EPCO and the Resources Management and Science Division (RMS) during this annual screening process and recommendations made by appropriate subject matter experts; additional compliance may be required.

Work performed under this CE must apply the techniques, protocols, and methodologies described below. Work must also occur without significant changes in technology, location, capacity, or appearance. Any new techniques, etc., or significant changes in the scope of work would trigger consultation with EPCO for review, including any requests for an amendment to the CE to cover the proposed changes. The standard for determining a significant change is based on the potential for increasing environmental impacts, as determined by the Environmental Screening Form (ESF), attached.

Required Mitigation Measures

Roads personnel must implement, in consultation with the park's subject-matter experts, the following overarching conditions:

- Roads personnel are responsible for coordination of activities with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief and the park Vegetation Management Branch Chief in RMS to ensure the protection of natural resources, including special status species.
- Roads personnel are responsible for coordination of activities with the park Archeologist and the Branch Chief for History, Architecture, and Landscapes in RMS and the park American Indian Liaison to ensure the protection of cultural resources, including American Indian Traditional Cultural Resources, cultural landscapes, and historic or prehistoric archeological sites that are listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

For detailed mitigation measures, see the attached Mitigation Measures table. Mitigation measures applicable to specific activities are also noted below, under Routine Road Maintenance and Repair Activities.

Routine Road Maintenance and Repair Activities

This work includes maintenance and repairs that are routinely required to address deterioration or damage due to exposure, weather and heavy use.

Road Repair:

- a. Shoulder repairs.
- b. Pothole and sinkhole repair.
- c. Crack sealing.
- d. Stone curb repair and replacement in kind (historic drywall must be preserved).
- e. Concrete and asphalt curb repair and replacement in kind.
- f. Drainage ditch maintenance, repair and rehabilitation.
- g. Turn out maintenance.

Road Resurfacing:

- a. Blade patching.
- b. Pavement overlay.
- c. Pavement seal coats.
- d. Resurfacing and grading of unpaved roads.
- e. Installation and replacement of base material on unpaved roads and shoulders.

Brush Clearing:

- a. Removal of brush and small trees growing within 6' of the road edge in accordance with the Yosemite Vegetation Management Plan, which prescribes sustainable roadside vegetation management.
- b. Mechanical brushing with a 'brush hog'.
- c. Removal of trees measuring less than 10" diameter that impact road use and maintenance and safe travel of wildlife across roadways.
- d. Removal of trees measuring greater than 10" in diameter requires review by RMS and EPCO.

Traffic Control Devices:

- a. Opening, closing and maintenance of traffic control gates on existing roads.
 - Repair or replacement of damaged gates.
 - Adjusting design/style at each location to gain durability based on past experience.
 - Making changes to gate location/length to gain durability/functionality and to adjust locations to mitigate existing safety risks where gates on secondary roads cause vehicles to be in the lane of traffic on a primary road while gates are opened or closed.
 - In instances where excavations in previously undisturbed locations need to be made, to adjust the exact location of posts, the division liaison and appropriate subject-matter experts in RMS will be notified in advance so they can determine if a monitor needs to be on site or if other mitigations need be employed.
- b. Replacement of snow stakes (within 3'x3' area).
- c. Replacement of culvert delineation stakes.
- d. Installation of temporary barriers, barricades, and traffic control devices (i.e., cones, signs, barrels).
- e. Maintenance and installation of speed bumps.

Roadside Features:

- a. Guardrail repair (metal, concrete and wood)
- b. Minor repair and replacement of 'half logs' and boundary rocks for site and road delineation (concrete, rock, wood).
- c. Other minor existing features:
 - Repairs to retaining walls (work to historic stone and guard walls requires meeting the prescribed treatment provided by the park History, Architecture and Landscapes branch).
 - Installation of erosion control devices (i.e., straw bales, camouflage burlap).
 - Installation of reflectors (according to MUTCD regulations).

Flood Road Repair:

- a. Temporary road and area closures.
- b. Removal of debris and mud from the road surface (Debris and mud must be transported to staging areas rather than pushed into the wash or stream).

Use of heavy equipment off of the established road prism will be required to address maintenance and repairs to roadside culverts, drainages, ditches, and channels. RMS and EPCO must review and make recommendations for work taking place outside of the existing road prism.

Culvert Cleaning and Maintenance:

- a. Routine cleaning of scuppers and culverts to maintain hydrologic function and prevent blockages.
- b. Emergency replacement in kind of failed culverts within the existing road prism.
- c. Routine maintenance of drainages, ditches and channels to maintain hydrologic function.

Heavy equipment must be operated from the existing road surface or shoulder, when possible. RMS and EPCO review is required for work outside of the existing road prism.

Snow and Ice Control:

- a. Application of citrus-based de-icer on all park roads.
- b. Application of sand on all park roads in winter. Sand used in the park is washed and undergoes a screening process. The park adheres to CalTrans specifications for road sand (available online). Sand is not removed from shoulders after the winter season.

Snow Removal:

- a. Removal of snow from park roads will follow the Winter Snow, Ice, and Tree Removal Standard Operations Procedures, as revised 09-26-2006.

Staging Areas:

- a. Existing staging areas will be used to stockpile materials and stage equipment during routine maintenance and repair activities. Location and boundaries of new staging areas must be reviewed by appropriate subject-matter experts in RMS.
- b. Staging areas must be localized to job sites to prevent spread of non-natives from one area of the park to another.
- c. Pollution prevention measures and erosion control measures must be in effect, and natural features protected from scarring or damage while temporary staging areas are in use.
- d. The only soil disturbance that may occur is on the surface.
- e. Upon project completion all temporary staging areas must be restored back to their original condition. Approved staging areas must be maintained within their defined boundaries.

Waste Removal:

- a. Sidecasting of material and debris is prohibited in the park and must be transported to one of four established overcasting sites to protect the park's Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- b. All excess soils will be transported to approved localized dump stations in the El Portal Administrative Site and within the park to prevent contamination from non-native plant species.
- c. Construction debris, municipal waste, old asphalt and concrete, sheet metal, and treated lumber will be transported outside the park. These materials may be staged temporarily at established staging areas.
- d. Hazardous materials will be treated and disposed of within the park according to the 2006 Revised Materials Specifications.

Construction Equipment and Vehicles:

- a. Construction equipment, vehicles and oversize vehicles will comply with all California Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highways Administration (FHA) regulations and SOPs.
- b. Use of all vehicles and heavy equipment off of the existing prism for uses not previously mentioned is prohibited.
- c. All equipment and materials brought into the park must be free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. Refer to the park's *Invasive Plant Management Plan* for additional information.

Wild and Scenic River Corridors and Tributaries:

All work will take place within the established road prism, including cut banks, roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, shoulders, guard walls, and road fills. Many of the outflows to drainages are within the bed and banks of the Merced Wild and Scenic River and the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. In some instances, the entire road prism is within the bed and banks of these rivers. To preserve the integrity of the roadway in these areas, drainage outflows will be routinely maintained to allow a consistent grade drop of 2% to a point where natural topography does not impede water flow.

Project Locations:

**Mariposa County, CA
Tuolumne County, CA**

Mitigation:

- Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair project description.
- To avoid the spread of non-native, invasive plant and animal species, all fill, mulch, reseeded, and sod material brought into the park must be 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 1335 and the Invasive Plant Management Plan for Yosemite National Park. Equipment coming in from outside the park will be pressure washed before leaving any paved surface. All earthwork related equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival at the project or staging areas to minimize the importation of non-native plants. Equipment must be re-cleaned before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.

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.9. Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists.

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.

//David Uberuaga//
Acting Park Superintendent

5/15/09
Date

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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite NP
Date: 04/06/2009

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF) DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 DM revisions and proposed DO-12 changes

Today's Date: **April 8, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **04/08/2009**

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair**

PEPC Project Number: **18131**

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

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California**

County, State: **Tuolumne, California**

Project Leader: **Tony Brocchini**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This categorical exclusion document (CE) will serve as a formal record for routine road maintenance and repair activities for the years 2009-2013. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) directs agencies to use CEs for actions "which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which are therefore exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental impact statement" (40 CFR §1500-1508). This project is categorically exempt under NPS Director's Order #12, Action 3.4 C(9): Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists. The activities covered by this programmatic CE are necessary to ensure visitor safety and enjoyment, and to promote resource protection by preserving the existing road infrastructure. This CE is intended to cover: repair of existing potholes, sinkholes, cracks, asphalt, concrete and stone curbs, guard walls, and traffic control devices; replacement in kind and repair of pavement markers, culverts, and road drainage structures, such as outflows; repair of guard walls; sanding and sealing of roadways; and snow and ice control and removal. Also covered by this CE are removal of brush and woody vegetation from roadsides, headwalls, culverts, drainage ditches and channels; removal of fallen trees, rocks, and flood debris from the existing road prism; and repair to sections of the shoulder where erosion has compromised road integrity. The maintenance and repair activities covered by this CE are limited to the existing road prism, except where repairs to the existing road bed or shoulder require work in previously disturbed areas adjacent to the road prism (i.e., turn outs). The road prism is defined as: all parts of a road including cut banks, roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, road shoulders, guard walls, and road fills. This CE is intended to be a road maintenance/repair agreement and is not intended to cover more extensive road rehabilitation or reconstruction projects, such as culvert upgrades, road realignments, rehabilitation of bridges, and rehabilitation or reconstruction of guard walls. This programmatic CE will exclude all Routine Road

Maintenance and Repair Activities listed in this document from further compliance for the term of this CE. The roads covered under this CE include all paved and unpaved roads within Yosemite National Park that are not located within designated Wilderness. See complete project description in the Categorical Exclusion document.

Preliminary drawings attached? **No**

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			All work will be performed within the road prism; any work that needs to be performed outside the road prism will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The road prism is defined as roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, road shoulders, guard walls, and road fills.
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality		X			Road maintenance will include temporary air emissions during operations.
4. Soundscapes		X			Heavy equipment will provide temporary noises
5. Water quality or quantity		X			Temporary degradation in water quality; routine cleaning of scuppers and culverts to maintain hydrologic function and prevent blockages.
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income,	X				

values, ownership, type of use					
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 implementing this project.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X			See comment 1, below.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				
18. Archeological resources		X			Parkwide; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect." Underground Service Alert (USA Dig) will be contacted a minimum of 48 hours prior to any planned digging to locate utilities. At this time, the park Archeology and Anthropology Branch Chief will also be automatically notified to identify the potential to affect archeological sites and to develop appropriate treatment measures, if necessary. Any ground disturbing activity outside the established road prism requires archeological

					consultation.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		X			The park's History, Architecture and Landscapes Branch (HAL) will be contacted prior to initiation of the following work: stone, concrete and asphalt curb repair and replacement, repair of historic culverts, headwalls, drainage ditches and guard walls, and replacement of guardrails, retaining walls, signs and erosion control devices. Rebuilding of all historic structures, such as guard walls and retaining walls, will require case-by-case review by the park historical landscape architect, historic architect, and archeologist. All rebuilding will require before and after photo documentation.
20. Cultural landscapes	X				
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	X				

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

Comments:

1. To avoid the spread of non-native, invasive plant and animal species, all fill, mulch, reseeded, and sod material brought into the park must be 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 1335 and the Invasive Plant Management Plan for Yosemite National Park. Equipment coming in from outside the park will be pressure washed before leaving any paved surface. All earthwork related equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival at the project or staging areas to minimize the importation of non-native plants. Equipment must be re-cleaned before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.

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; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
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		Mitigated; see Comment 1, above.

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.

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u> //David Uberuaga// </u> David V. Uberuaga	<u> 5/15/09 </u>

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

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **April 8, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 18131

Project Type: Facility Maintenance (FM)

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California

County, State: Tuolumne, California

Project Manager: Tony Brocchini

Project Title: 2007-055 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
2. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
4. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
5. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
6. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			All work will be performed within the road prism; any work that needs to be performed outside the road prism will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The road prism is defined as roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, road shoulders, guard walls, and road fills.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			The assessment of effect in "No Adverse Effect." In the event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during routine road maintenance, roads personnel will temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact the park Archeology and Anthropology Branch Chief to evaluate the materials and determine

				appropriate action. Establishment of new staging areas requires park archeological consultation to identify potential to affect archeological sites and appropriate treatment measures, including at previously disturbed locations.
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	X			To protect landscape and visual resources, the History, Architecture and Landscapes Branch Chief will be contacted prior to the installation of temporary traffic control devices when those devices are intended to be in place for more than 90 days. Rebuilding of all historic structures, such as guard walls and retaining walls, will require case-by-case review by the park historical landscape architect, historic architect, and archeologist. All rebuilding will require before and after photo documentation.
10. Has a National Register form been completed?		X		
11. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	X			
12. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	X			Merced and Tuolumne Rivers.
14. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		X		
15. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?	X			Water quality will only be affected temporarily.
16. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	
17. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	
18. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?		X		
19. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
20. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
21. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		X		Parkwide there are many tributaries that cross the roadways within the park.
22. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		X		

100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
101. Within designated Wilderness?		X		
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		X		

Topic	Mitigation Measures	Timeframe
General Resource Management	Location of staging areas must be reviewed by the Resources Management and Science Division (RMS) and boundaries must be clearly defined. Staging areas must be localized to job sites to prevent spread of non-native, invasive species from one area of the park to another. Pollution prevention measures and erosion control measures must be in effect, and natural features protected from scarring or damage while staging areas are in use. The only soil disturbance that may occur is on the surface. Upon project completion all areas must be restored back to their original condition. A list of staging areas is attached to this document.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities
Natural Resources	To avoid the spread of non-native, invasive plant and animal species, all fill, mulch, reseeding, and sod material brought into the park must be 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 1335 and the <i>Invasive Plant Management Plan</i> for Yosemite National Park.	Prior to project activities
	Equipment coming in from outside the park will be pressure washed before leaving any paved surface. All earthwork related equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival at the project or staging areas to minimize the importation of non-native plants. Equipment must be re-cleaned before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.	Prior to project activities
	The roads program will consult with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief in RMS when maintenance activities could occur in an area that may affect sensitive wildlife, including nesting birds, or when potential to disrupt wildlife exists. RMS will provide each district roads supervisor with maps identifying the locations of all sensitive species within the road prism in each district. Sound attenuated generators will be used when feasible.	Prior to project activities
	The roads program will consult with the park Vegetation Management Branch Chief and the Wildlife Management Branch Chief in RMS when maintenance activities could occur in an area that may affect special status species. RMS will provide each district roads supervisor with maps identifying the locations of all special status species within the road prism in each district.	Prior to project activities
	Road work impacting roadside vegetation may require restoration through reseeding and erosion control. If RMS recommends restoration of an area, seed mixtures must be reviewed by RMS to ensure that only native stock is used. In the event RMS recommends restoration of roadside vegetation, RMS will provide the native stock as necessary and will carry out the restoration work.	Concurrent with project activities
	Removal of trees measuring greater than 10" in diameter or growing more than 6' from the road edge requires review by the division liaison in RMS and EPCO.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities
	The roads program will consult with the park Wildlife Management Branch chief in RMS prior to explosive use and	Prior to project

	explosive use will be delayed or avoided if there is any chance that the percussion will have a negative impact on sensitive wildlife in the area (e.g., peregrine falcons).	activities
Cultural Resources	The park's History, Architecture and Landscapes Branch (HAL) will be contacted prior to initiation of the following work: stone, concrete and asphalt curb repair and replacement, repair of historic culverts, headwalls, drainage ditches and guardwalls, and replacement of guardrails, retaining walls, signs and erosion control devices.	Prior to project activities
	Underground Service Alert (USA Dig) will be contacted a minimum of 48 hours prior to any planned digging to locate utilities. At this time, the park Archeology and Anthropology Branch Chief will also be automatically notified to identify the potential to affect archeological sites and to develop appropriate treatment measures, if necessary. Any ground disturbing activity outside the established road prism requires archeological consultation.	Prior to project activities
	All employees are made aware that all artifacts are protected by law and that if any archeologically sensitive soil layers are found digging must stop at once and the supervisor or leader is informed. The park Archeology and Anthropology Branch will provide employee orientation/training as requested.	Prior to project activities
	Establishment of new staging areas requires park archeological consultation to identify potential to affect archeological sites and appropriate treatment measures, including at previously disturbed locations. A list of well-established and routine staging areas is attached to this document.	Prior to project activities
	To protect landscape and visual resources, the History, Architecture and Landscapes Branch Chief will be contacted prior to the installation of temporary traffic control devices when those devices are intended to be in place for more than 90 days.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities
	Rebuilding of all historic structures, such as guardwalls and retaining walls, will require case-by-case review by the park historical landscape architect, historic architect, and archeologist. All rebuilding will require before and after photo documentation.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities
	Although not expected, should previously unknown American Indian burial sites be discovered during routine road maintenance, provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and its implementing regulations will be followed. The park Archeology and Anthropology Branch Chief and the park American Liaison will be contacted as soon as possible.	Concurrent with project activities
	In the event that previously unknown cultural resources are encountered during routine road maintenance, roads personnel will temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact the park Archeology and Anthropology Branch Chief to evaluate the materials and determine appropriate action.	Concurrent with project activities
	Heavy equipment must be operated from the existing road surface or shoulder, when possible. RMS and EPCO consultation is required for work outside of the existing road prism.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities
Operations	Sand used in the park will be washed and undergo a screening	Prior to and

	process. The park adheres to CalTrans specifications for road sand (available online). Snow removal and sanding operations on roads follow the Winter Snow, Ice, and Tree Removal Standard Operations Procedures, as revised 09-26-2006.	concurrent with project activities
Visitor Protection Measures	All blasting activities will follow guidelines in <i>NPS Director's Order 65: Explosives Use and Blasting Safety and the National Park Service Handbook for the Storage, Transportation, and Use of Explosives</i> . In order to provide for public safety, roads will be closed for the duration of blasting operations. Roads personnel will alert dispatch at the beginning and the end of all blasting operations. A note of the road closure will be posted and the Public Information Office will be notified. For large blasts that will be heard in Yosemite Valley, the Yosemite Medical Clinic will also be notified. The Blaster in Charge will assign workers to establish a secure perimeter around the blast site in order to prevent people from wandering into the blast area. The Blaster in Charge will maintain contact with his security detail by voice and radio.	Prior to and concurrent with project activities

Staging Areas

Existing:

- Wawona
- Chinquapin
- Badger Pass Parking Lot
- Glacier Point Parking Lot
- Ostrander Parking Lot
- Barium Mine Road
- Pohono Pit
- Yosemite Valley Woodyard
- Yosemite Valley Maintenance Area
- Middle Road Burn Pile (El Portal)
- Camp 6
- Foresta Burn Pile
- Upper and Lower South Landing
- Hodgdon Yard
- Tuolumne Meadows Maintenance Area (Road Camp)
- Tuolumne Wastewater Treatment Plant

Proposed:

- Expanded Barium Mine
- Expanded Foresta Burn Pile
- Hetch Hetchy Pit
- May Lake Pit
- White Wolf



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite NP **Park District:** Parkwide

2. **Project Description:**

a. Project Name: **2009-2013 2007-028 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair** Date: **April 6, 2009** PEPC Project ID Number: **18131**

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

INTRODUCTION

This categorical exclusion document (CE) will serve as a formal record for routine road maintenance and repair activities for the years 2009-2013. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) directs agencies to use CEs for actions "which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which are therefore exempt from requirements to prepare an environmental impact statement" (40 CFR 1500-1508). This project is categorically exempt under NPS Director's Order #12, Action 3.4 C(9): Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, and repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists.

The activities covered by this programmatic CE are necessary to ensure visitor safety and enjoyment, and to promote resource protection by preserving the existing road infrastructure. This CE is intended to cover: repair of existing potholes, sinkholes, cracks, asphalt, concrete and stone curbs, guard walls, and traffic control devices; replacement in kind and repair of pavement markers, culverts, and road drainage structures, such as outflows; repair of guard walls; sanding and sealing of roadways; and snow and ice control and removal. Also covered by this CE are removal of brush and woody vegetation from roadsides, headwalls, culverts, drainage ditches and channels; removal of fallen trees, rocks, and flood debris from the existing road prism; and repair to sections of the shoulder where erosion has compromised road integrity. The maintenance and repair activities covered by this CE are limited to the existing road prism, except where repairs to the existing road bed or shoulder require work in previously disturbed areas adjacent to the road prism (i.e., turn outs). The road prism is defined as: all parts of a road including cut banks, roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, road shoulders, guard walls, and road fills.

This CE is intended to be a road maintenance/repair agreement and is not intended to cover more extensive road rehabilitation or reconstruction projects, such as culvert upgrades, road realignments, rehabilitation of bridges, and rehabilitation or reconstruction of guard walls. This programmatic CE will exclude all Routine Road Maintenance and Repair Activities listed in this

document from further compliance for the term of this CE. The roads covered under this CE include all paved and unpaved roads within Yosemite National Park that are not located within designated Wilderness.

Consultation Procedures

This programmatic CE is subject to annual review. Project proponents and responsible parties will submit an annual workplan for all non-routine work to be performed under this programmatic CE each year to the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office (EPCO). Consultation with the appropriate subject-matter experts will be determined by the nature of the activity. Any work proposed outside of the existing road prism must be reviewed by EPCO and the Resources Management and Science Division (RMS) during this annual screening process and recommendations made by appropriate subject matter experts; additional compliance may be required.

Work performed under this CE must apply the techniques, protocols, and methodologies described below. Work must also occur without significant changes in technology, location, capacity, or appearance. Any new techniques, etc., or significant changes in the scope of work would trigger consultation with EPCO for review, including any requests for an amendment to the CE to cover the proposed changes. The standard for determining a significant change is based on the potential for increasing environmental impacts, as determined by the Environmental Screening Form (ESF), attached.

Required Mitigation Measures

Roads personnel must implement, in consultation with the park's subject-matter experts, the following overarching conditions:

- Roads personnel are responsible for coordination of activities with the park Wildlife Management Branch Chief and the park Vegetation Management Branch Chief in RMS to ensure the protection of natural resources, including special status species.
- Roads personnel are responsible for coordination of activities with the park Archeologist and the Branch Chief for History, Architecture, and Landscapes in RMS and the park American Indian Liaison to ensure the protection of cultural resources, including American Indian Traditional Cultural Resources, cultural landscapes, and historic or prehistoric archeological sites that are listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

For detailed mitigation measures, see the attached Mitigation Measures table. Mitigation measures applicable to specific activities are also noted below, under Routine Road Maintenance and Repair Activities.

Routine Road Maintenance and Repair Activities

This work includes maintenance and repairs that are routinely required to address deterioration or damage due to exposure, weather and heavy use.

Road Repair:

- a. Shoulder repairs.
- b. Pothole and sinkhole repair.
- c. Crack sealing.
- d. Stone curb repair and replacement in kind (historic drywall must be preserved).
- e. Concrete and asphalt curb repair and replacement in kind.
- f. Drainage ditch maintenance, repair and rehabilitation.
- g. Turn out maintenance.

Road Resurfacing:

- a. Blade patching.
- b. Pavement overlay.
- c. Pavement seal coats.
- d. Resurfacing and grading of unpaved roads.
- e. Installation and replacement of base material on unpaved roads and shoulders.

Brush Clearing:

- a. Removal of brush and small trees growing within 6' of the road edge in accordance with the Yosemite Vegetation Management Plan, which prescribes sustainable roadside vegetation management.
- b. Mechanical brushing with a 'brush hog'.
- c. Removal of trees measuring less than 10" diameter that impact road use and maintenance and safe travel of wildlife across roadways.
- d. Removal of trees measuring greater than 10" in diameter requires review by RMS and EPCO.

Traffic Control Devices:

- a. Opening, closing and maintenance of traffic control gates on existing roads.
 - Repair or replacement of damaged gates.
 - Adjusting design/style at each location to gain durability based on past experience.
 - Making changes to gate location/length to gain durability/functionality and to adjust locations to mitigate existing safety risks where gates on secondary roads cause vehicles to be in the lane of traffic on a primary road while gates are opened or closed.
 - In instances where excavations in previously undisturbed locations need to be made, to adjust the exact location of posts, the division liaison and appropriate subject-matter experts in RMS will be notified in advance so they can determine if a monitor needs to be on site or if other mitigations need be employed.
- b. Replacement of snow stakes (within 3'x3' area).
- c. Replacement of culvert delineation stakes.
- d. Installation of temporary barriers, barricades, and traffic control devices (i.e., cones, signs, barrels).
- e. Maintenance and installation of speed bumps.

Roadside Features:

- a. Guardrail repair (metal, concrete and wood).
- b. Minor repair and replacement of 'half logs' and boundary rocks for site and road delineation (concrete, rock, wood).

c. Other minor existing features:

- Repairs to retaining walls (work to historic stone and guard walls requires meeting the prescribed treatment provided by the park History, Architecture and Landscapes branch).
- Installation of erosion control devices (i.e., straw bales, camouflage burlap).
- Installation of reflectors (according to MUTCD regulations).

Flood Road Repair:

- a. Temporary road and area closures
- b. Removal of debris and mud from the road surface (debris and mud must be transported to staging areas rather than pushed into the wash or stream).

Use of heavy equipment off of the established road prism will be required to address maintenance and repairs to roadside culverts, drainages, ditches, and channels. RMS and EPCO must review and make recommendations for work taking place outside of the existing road prism.

Culvert Cleaning and Maintenance:

- a. Routine cleaning of scuppers and culverts to maintain hydrologic function and prevent blockages.
- b. Emergency replacement in kind of failed culverts within the existing road prism.
- c. Routine maintenance of drainages, ditches and channels to maintain hydrologic function.

Heavy equipment must be operated from the existing road surface or shoulder, when possible. RMS and EPCO review is required for work outside of the existing road prism.

Snow and Ice Control:

- a. Application of citrus-based de-icer on all park roads.
- b. Application of sand on all park roads in winter. Sand used in the park is washed and undergoes a screening process. The park adheres to CalTrans specifications for road sand (available online). Sand is not removed from shoulders after the winter season.

Snow Removal:

- a. Removal of snow from park roads will follow the Winter Snow, Ice, and Tree Removal Standard Operations Procedures, as revised 09-26-2006.

Staging Areas:

- a. Existing staging areas will be used to stockpile materials and stage equipment during routine maintenance and repair activities. Location and boundaries of new staging areas must be reviewed by appropriate subject-matter experts in RMS.
- b. Staging areas must be localized to job sites to prevent spread of non-natives from one area of the park to another.
- c. Pollution prevention measures and erosion control measures must be in effect, and natural features protected from scarring or damage while temporary staging areas are in use.
- d. The only soil disturbance that may occur is on the surface.
- e. Upon project completion all temporary staging areas must be restored back to their original condition. Approved staging areas must be maintained within their defined boundaries.

Waste Removal:

- a. Sidecasting of material and debris is prohibited in the park and must be transported to one of four established overcasting sites to protect the park's Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- b. All excess soils will be transported to approved localized dump stations in the El Portal Administrative Site and within the park to prevent contamination from non-native plant species.
- c. Construction debris, municipal waste, old asphalt and concrete, sheet metal, and treated lumber will be transported outside the park. These materials may be staged temporarily at established staging areas.
- d. Hazardous materials will be treated and disposed of within the park according to the 2006 Revised Materials Specifications.

Construction Equipment and Vehicles:

- a. Construction equipment, vehicles and oversize vehicles will comply with all California Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Highways Administration (FHA) regulations and SOPs.
- b. Use of all vehicles and heavy equipment off of the existing prism for uses not previously mentioned is prohibited.
- c. All equipment and materials brought into the park must be free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. Refer to the park's *Invasive Plant Management Plan* for additional information.

Wild and Scenic River Corridors and Tributaries

All work will take place within the established road prism, including cut banks, roadside drainages, ditches and channels, road surfaces, shoulders, guard walls, and road fills. Many of the outflows to drainages are within the bed and banks of the Merced Wild and Scenic River and the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. In some instances, the entire road prism is within the bed and banks of these rivers. To preserve the integrity of the roadway in these areas, drainage outflows will be routinely maintained to allow a consistent grade drop of 2% to a point where natural topography does not impede water flow.

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

No

Yes Source or reference

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 Resources:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

NR status: **0**

Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

NR status: **0**

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

NR status: **0**

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.**

NR status: **0**

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.)

- Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair Project Description.

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: 4/08/09

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/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 03/30/2009

Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 03/30/2009

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method:

Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historian

Name: Patrick Chapin

Date: 03/26/2009

Comments: None

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 04/06/2009

Comments: American Indian Liaison

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Implement Consultation Procedures in 2009-2013 Programmatic Parkwide Road Routine Maintenance and Repair Project Description.

Doc Method:

Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 02/24/2009

Comments: None.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None.

No Reviews From: Curator, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Historic Properties Affected _____ 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. 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.)

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 2008 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: _____

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. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

G. 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 5/7/09

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 Acting Superintendent //David Uberuaga//

Date 5/15/09

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