



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Regions 8, 9, 10 and 12**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
WOOLSEY FIRE DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT**

Recommended:

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Date

1. Introduction

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the National Park Service (NPS) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to examine potential impacts associated with the *Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery Project*. The proposed action will replace facilities at three sites in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) in Los Angeles County, California: Paramount Ranch, Rocky Oaks, and Peter Strauss Ranch (see Figure 1). Paramount Ranch and Peter Strauss are historic cultural landscapes determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Rocky Oaks is not considered eligible for listing. The proposed action is needed to restore visitor services, employee housing, administrative functions, and cultural features that were lost in the Woolsey Fire.

This document records the finding of no significant impact (FONSI) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. This FONSI is available on the National Park Service Planning, Environmental and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. The statements and conclusions reached in this FONSI are based on documentation and analysis provided in the EA and associated decision file. The EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA; the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508); NPS Director's Order #12 (DO-12): *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-Making*; and the NEPA Handbook (NPS 2015). To the extent necessary, relevant sections of the EA are incorporated by reference in the sections below.

As required by the Endangered Species Act, Section 7, this document records a “no effect” finding for 15 special-status species, a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” finding for four special-status species, and a “may affect, likely to adversely affect” finding for critical habitat of one special-status species. In addition, this document records a finding of no adverse effect for Paramount Ranch and a no historic properties affected finding for Rocky Oaks as required by the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. Refer to Section 7 of this FONSI for additional information about these findings.

2. Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) was presented as the Preferred Alternative in the EA, and the NPS has selected Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) as the Preferred Alternative for implementation. Alternative 2 is described in detail in Section 2.3.2 (pages 20 through 32) of the EA and summarized as follows. The proposed action will include redevelopment of the most essential buildings and utilities necessary to replace lost functions. Nine structures will be redeveloped to consolidate NPS administrative functions and housing at Paramount Ranch, Rocky Oaks, and Peter Strauss Ranch. Overall, upgrades to the buildings, utilities, and associated infrastructure will be necessary to meet current design codes and standards for accessibility and fire safety. Other fire protection actions will be implemented to reduce the potential for structure loss and soil contamination in the event of future fires. Resource protection measures (listed in Appendix C) will be implemented to minimize the degree and/or severity of adverse effects on air quality, hydrological/water resources, biological

resources, archaeological and ethnographic resources, historic resources and cultural landscapes, lightscares and soundscares, visitor use and experience, and visitor health and safety.

The EA also evaluated Alternative 1 (No Action Alternative), which is described in Section 2.3.1 of the EA (page 20). Under Alternative 1, Paramount Ranch, Rocky Oaks, and Peter Strauss Ranch would have remained in their current, post-burn conditions. Alternative 1 would have included routine maintenance of the remaining existing facilities and grounds; however, no structures that were burned in the Woolsey Fire would have been reestablished. For these reasons, Alternative 1 would not have met the purpose and need for the project and was not selected.

Rationale for the Selected Alternative

Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) is the Selected Alternative because it best meets the project purpose and need to replace NPS facilities and functions (i.e., visitor services, replace or rehabilitate features, employee housing, and administration buildings) that were lost within the SMMNRA due to the 2018 Woolsey Fire. Alternative 2 will create more functional and efficient facilities that better serve the public interest and park operations. The proposed structures will meet current design codes and standards for accessibility and fire safety, including International Building Code (IBC), Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS)/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and International Wildland Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes. In addition, the new structures will improve visitor experience and the efficiency of park operations from pre- and post-fire conditions. Alternative 2 is intended to redevelop the burned areas in a manner that better aligns with the NPS mission of conserving natural and cultural resources and providing high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Furthermore, the NPS will implement the resource protection measures and mitigation measure listed in Appendix C to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts.

Figure 1. Location of the Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery Project in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Figure Source: Adapted by Ascent in 2021



3. Mitigation Measures

The NPS places a strong emphasis on avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts. To help ensure that the construction and operational activities of the selected alternative protect natural, cultural, and social resources and the quality of the visitor experience within the SMMNRA, resource protection measures have been developed, which are listed in Appendix C. NPS/SMMNRA staff will implement the resource protection measures listed in Appendix C prior to, during, and after construction of the selected alternative.

In addition, the NPS is adopting and will implement the following mitigation measure as part of the selected alternative to avoid significant impacts related to the loss of critical habitat for Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) by compensating for unavoidable loss of habitat through the enhancement of nearby habitat.

Mitigation for the Loss of Critical Habitat for Lyon's Pentachaeta

The NPS will enhance the quality of existing Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) critical habitat at Rocky Oaks as part of the proposed project following the protocols defined by the 2017 Invasive Plant Management Plan (IPMP) program (USFWS 2017; 2017-F-0012). The NPS will continue to implement the IPMP to eradicate invasive species such as Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*) and Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus pycnocephalus*), which form dense stands that overtop Lyon's pentachaeta and eliminate bare ground. The NPS will treat 6.5 acres within and 4.5 acres immediately adjacent to the designated critical habitat at Rocky Oaks (NPS 2021, pp. 54-55). Treatment may include mechanical, manual, chemical, or other cultural actions as described in the IPMP program (USFWS 2017; 2017-F-0012). The NPS will monitor target invasive plants and expand treatment areas as necessary.

The NPS will also implement a program of thinning annual grasses and forbs and removal of thatch adjacent to the two largest stands of Lyon's pentachaeta at Rocky Oaks. At the stand immediately east of the stock pond, the NPS will treat approximately 0.3 acre and at the stand east of the Loop Trail, slightly more than 0.1 acre (NPS 2021, pp. 54-56) with the intention of doubling the amount of habitat with suitable bare ground at these two sites. The NPS will also install raptor perches at the Loop Trail to discourage the burrowing rodents that have been turning soil and disrupting microbiotic crusts.

Finally, the NPS will manage fire fuels reduction zones within existing Lyon's pentachaeta critical habitat at Rocky Oaks in a way to preserve and potentially enhance Lyon's pentachaeta habitat. Within the fuels zone and using mechanical or manual methods, the NPS will cut grasses early before the Lyon's pentachaeta is up, and as a precaution, the NPS will cut grasses at six inches, above the height of the Lyon's pentachaeta. This will reduce crowding by grasses and the buildup of thatch. The NPS will additionally time the cutting to avoid the spread of seeds from invasive species during maintenance activities (Tiszler, pers. comm. 2022b). Where shrubs occur within the fire fuels reduction zone, the NPS will selectively thin or remove to create an open, non-contiguous canopy within a mosaic of bare ground.

4. Alternatives Considered and Dismissed

During the planning process, the NPS considered and dismissed alternative actions. A description of these elements and rationale for their dismissal are described in detail in Section 2.4 of the EA (page 32) and summarized as follows:

- **Paramount Ranch:** The NPS considered alternatives that would have reestablished fewer structures. However, these alternatives were dismissed because the NPS determined that a smaller project would not have (1) achieved the massing and spatial arrangement sufficiently characteristic of the historic period, (2) met SMMNRA's needs for restrooms and public services, or (3) met SMMNRA's 2002 General Management Plan goals of generating revenue and continuing film operations.
- **Rocky Oaks:** The NPS considered alternatives that differed with respect to the layout of the proposed buildings and the alignment of roads and utilities. However, the different layouts were dismissed because the NPS determined they would have (1) resulted in greater impacts on natural and geological resources due to increased earthwork and excavation and larger paved areas and (2) not been as efficient for NPS operations and functionality.
- **Peter Strauss Ranch:** The NPS considered alternatives that differed with respect to site pedestrian circulation, accessibility, and building footprint. However, these alternatives were dismissed because the NPS determined they would have (1) resulted in greater impacts on natural and historic resources, (2) been limited in their ability to enhance visitor accessibility, (3) not sufficiently maintained the pre-fire historic footprint and cultural landscape, and (4) not reestablished pre-fire event spaces used to generate revenue to fund NPS operations.

5. Public Involvement/Agency Consultation

During preparation of the EA, the NPS consulted with federal and state agencies, tribes, interested and affected parties, and the general public. These activities are described in detail in Section 4 (pages 61 through 63) of the EA and summarized as follows.

Public Engagement

The NPS completed public scoping from June 15 through July 16, 2021. The scoping process was used to (1) confirm and determine the appropriate level of NEPA compliance for the proposed action, (2) confirm and define the project purpose and need, (3) develop a reasonable and feasible action alternative that meets the purpose and need, as well as a no action alternative, (4) determine the range of topics evaluated in the EA, and (5) inform the analysis of the potential environmental effects of the alternatives in the EA.

During the public scoping period, the NPS received 28 correspondences from individuals related to the following environmental issue areas: visitor experience, health, and safety; cultural resources; water resources; traffic volume and circulation; and non-native or exotic plant species. Overall, the

commenters expressed support for improving accessibility, reinstating event spaces and programming, reconstructing the film sets and historic resources at Paramount Ranch, and reconstructing the event space at Peter Strauss Ranch. Other commenters expressed concerns about locating NPS facilities and housing at Rocky Oaks and about placing structures in areas prone to fire or flood. Commenters expressed concerns regarding the spread of invasive species, as well as the protection of wildlife habitat and water resources. In addition, commenters expressed concerns regarding traffic from special events.

The EA was available for public review and comment from October 25 to November 24, 2021. The purpose of the public review period was to seek public input in the discretionary decision-making process. NPS received 12 correspondences from individuals related to the following environmental issue areas: visitor experience, cultural resources, and threatened and endangered species. Overall, commenters expressed support for rebuilding event spaces and historic resources that were destroyed in the Woolsey Fire. In addition, commenters requested more information about fire management practices for the proposed facilities, visitor experience and visitation levels during construction activities, existing threatened and endangered species populations, and project design related to employee housing and accessibility.

Traditionally Associated American Indian Tribes and Groups

On June 11, 2021, the NPS initiated consultation with the federally recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and 11 other tribal organizations on the Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List. Four tribal organizations expressed interest in entering into formal consultation with regard to the project, as follows: the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians; the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians; the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians; and the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians.

The consultation process has only been initiated for the proposed improvements at Paramount Ranch and Rocky Oaks. Tribal consultation for Peter Strauss Ranch will be initiated if/when funding is identified. The outcome of the tribal consultation process is summarized on pages 61 and 62 of the EA. The NPS will respond to the requests of the tribes by continuing to keep the tribes apprised of the proposed action as the planning effort further develops and by engaging tribal monitors to conduct monitoring during project-related ground disturbing activities.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The NPS initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurrently with the release of the EA in October 2021. A list of federally listed endangered and threatened species with potential to be present in the biological study area and a determination of effects for these species is included in Section 3.3 (pages 48 through 60) of the EA and summarized below in Section 7 of this FONSI. The USFWS concurred with the park's determination and proposed mitigation and issued a biological opinion for impacts to the Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) critical habitat on March 11, 2022.

California Office of Historic Preservation

The NPS initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) at the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) on June 10, 2021. An evaluation of the selected alternative's effects on historic structures and cultural landscapes is included in Section 3.1 (pages 33 through 43) of the EA and summarized below in Section 7 of this FONSI. The SHPO concurred with the park's no historic properties affected finding for Rocky Oaks on January 27, 2022. Consultation for the Peter Strauss Ranch, with a proposed finding of no adverse effect, will be completed when funding for that portion of the proposed action is available.

Subsequent to the release of the EA, a newly recorded archaeological site was identified at Paramount Ranch. Previous to this discovery, Section 106 consultation with the SHPO was ongoing; in a letter dated November 5, 2021, the SHPO had concurred with the NPS's definition of the project as a federal undertaking subject to the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 106 consultation, as well as NPS's delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE), but the SHPO also requested more information regarding the identification of historic properties within the APE and declined to comment on the finding of effect until the OHP was in receipt of that information. Subsequently, as a result of the newly discovered archeological site and in consultation with an archeologist at the OHP, NPS conducted an archeological testing program from January 18, 2022 to January 27, 2022, resulting in the finding of additional historic prehistoric artifacts. The NPS responded to the SHPO's request for additional information in a letter dated May 12, 2022 and, at that time, also reported the results of the archeological testing program, including a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation that determined ineligible the site subject to testing. NPS also assumed the NRHP eligibility for several prehistoric isolated occurrences and historic resources, as well as a multi-component site within the APE. NPS reported to the SHPO that it will take measures to avoid these resources during project implementation and that it has agreed to tribal monitoring during project-related ground disturbing activities. Therefore, NPS requested concurrence with the identification of historic properties and the finding that the proposed undertaking would have no adverse effect on cultural resources within the APE with protection measures and monitoring as conditions of approval. On June 14, 2022, a response letter from the SHPO described that she concurred with the identification of historic properties and did not object to the finding of no adverse effect, with protection measures and monitoring as conditions of approval. A summary of the findings is provided below in Section 6 of this FONSI.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Prior to construction, the NPS will require the construction contractor to obtain coverage and comply with permit conditions imposed under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

6. Why the Selected Alternative will not Significantly Affect the Quality of the Human Environment

As described in Section 1.3.2 (pages 6 through 12) of the EA, the following impact topics were dismissed from evaluation in the EA: traffic volume and circulation, air quality and climate change, non-native or exotic plant species, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, archaeological and ethnographic resources, museum collections, geological resources, lightscapes, environmental justice communities, socioeconomics, soundscapes, viewsheds, visitor health and safety, water resources, and wilderness areas. Adverse effects to these resource topics were determined to be below the level of significance, especially with implementation of the resource protection measures included in Appendix C of this FONSI, which NPS/SMMNRA staff will implement prior to, during, and after construction of the selected alternative.

As described in Section 3 (pages 33 through 60) of the EA and summarized in the following sections, the selected alternative has the potential to result in impacts on historic structures and cultural landscapes, visitor experience, and threatened and endangered species and critical habitat.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes

The selected alternative involves reestablishing facilities and implementing site improvements within the cultural landscapes at Paramount Ranch and Peter Strauss Ranch. These actions will not alter characteristics of either the Paramount Ranch Cultural Landscape Historic District or the Peter Strauss Ranch Historic District and their contributing resources in a manner that will diminish the historic integrity of the properties' design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. The selected alternative is designed to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* for the rehabilitation of the cultural landscape features. As such, the cultural landscapes will remain eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places upon completion of the selected alternative. Therefore, the selected alternative will have no adverse effect on historic structures or cultural landscapes. Rather, the selected alternative will contribute to long-term beneficial effects to historic structures and cultural landscapes at the SMMNRA because the selected alternative will address damage resulting from the Woolsey Fire to the cultural landscapes and loss of features that contributed to the integrity of the properties.

As described in Section 5, above, the SHPO concurred with the park's no historic properties affected finding for Rocky Oaks on January 27, 2022 and, on June 14, 2022, the SHPO expressed that she did not object to the park's finding of no adverse effect for Paramount Ranch. Consultation for the Peter Strauss Ranch, with a proposed finding of no adverse effect, will be completed when funding for that portion of the proposed action is available.

Subsequent to the release of the EA, a newly recorded archaeological site was identified at Paramount Ranch during a hazardous materials cleanup conducted by NPS from June 2020 through December 2021. The artifacts were found in three sparse, isolated clusters that were formally recorded as isolated occurrences due to their distance apart (roughly 50 feet to 100 feet). The area

containing two of these isolated occurrences, although low in numbers of artifacts, was only minimally disturbed during hazmat cleanup efforts and was thought to possibly contain other artifacts and/or features below the surface that would comprise an archeological site.

SHPO requested additional information in a letter dated November 5, 2021 and NPS consulted with an archaeologist at OHP by phone on December 21, 2021. NPS conducted an archeological testing program to determine possible presence of a prehistoric archeological site. From January 18, 2022 to January 27, 2022, a team led by three NPS archaeologists excavated four-and-a-half standard test unit units, resulting in the finding of additional historic prehistoric artifacts. The NPS assumed eligibility of the cultural resources within the APE (PARA-19-2/H, 19-100037, IF-PARA-19-3H) and will take measures to avoid these resources during project implementation. NPS has agreed to tribal monitoring during ground disturbing activities for project implementation. Therefore, the NPS responded to SHPO with the requested information in a letter dated May 12, 2022 and requested concurrence with the identification of historic properties and the finding that the proposed undertaking would have no adverse effect on cultural resources within the APE with protection measures and monitoring as conditions of approval. SHPO concurred with this determination on June 14, 2022.

Visitor Experience

Construction activities associated with the selected alternative will result in temporary short-term effects related to aesthetics, congestion, noise, and fugitive dust and other emissions. These construction activities will result in a short-term adverse impact on visitor experience. However, NPS will implement general construction management measures and best management practices as identified in Appendix C of this FONSI to minimize temporary adverse effects. Once operational, the selected alternative will replace functions that were lost as a result of the Woolsey Fire, which will allow NPS to reinstate visitation, public events, and special uses to pre-fire levels and enhance visitor experience. Visitation will increase over existing post-fire conditions and the proposed action will result in long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor experience at the SMMNRA. Based on the findings in the EA, the selected alternative will not result in significant adverse effects on visitor experience.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

The selected alternative will have no effect on 15 of the 20 special-status species with potential to occur in the biological study area and their critical habitat, which include the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus*), California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*), tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*), marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), salt marsh bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus*), marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa ssp. marcescens*), Santa Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa ssp. ovatifolia*), Verity's dudleya (*Dudleya verityi*), spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), California Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia californica*), and Gambel's watercress (*Rorippa gambellii*).

The selected alternative has potential to result in short- and long-term effects to the following special-status species: southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). A “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” finding was made for these species. However, with implementation of the resource protection measures included in Appendix C of this FONSI, the proposed action will not have a significant adverse effect on these species.

Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) was not observed within the project site at Paramount Ranch, Rocky Oaks, or Peter Strauss Ranch, and the proposed action will not adversely affect occurrences of this species. However, the proposed action will remove 0.7 acre of designated critical habitat for Lyon's pentachaeta at Rocky Oaks. Therefore, a “may affect, likely to adversely affect” finding was made for Lyon's pentachaeta critical habitat. Although the project will adversely affect Lyon's pentachaeta critical habitat at the Rocky Oaks project site, mitigation to enhance critical habitat for this species as identified in Section 3, “Mitigation Measures,” and Appendix C of this FONSI, will be sufficient to replace and add to the habitat values diminished by the proposed action, such that overall critical habitat conditions in the region will not be adversely affected. The USFWS concurred with the park's determination on March 11, 2022.

7. Conclusion

Based on the environmental impact analysis contained in the EA; the resource protection measures in Appendix C; the mitigation measure designed to avoid, reduce, or eliminate potential impacts; and the results of public review and agency coordination, NPS has determined that the selected alternative (Alternative 2, Proposed Action) does not constitute a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment or significantly affect human health and safety. The selected alternative will not violate any Federal, State, Tribal, or local laws protecting the environment. In addition, the selected alternative is not without precedent, nor is it similar to an action which normally requires an environmental impact statement. No connected actions with potential significant impacts were identified. Therefore, in accordance with NEPA and regulations of the CEQ, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The selected alternative for the Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery Project at the SMMNRA will be implemented as soon as practicable, as funding is available.

**Appendix A:
Responses to Public Concerns and
Errata Indicating Text Changes to EA**

Responses to Public Concerns and Errata Indicating Text Changes to EA

Responses to Public Concerns

The Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery Environmental Assessment (EA) was made available for public review during a 30-day period from October 25 to November 24, 2021. Twelve correspondences were received and documented on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The following section includes NPS responses to concerns that were raised by commenters on the EA and identified as being of high importance to the public or needing clarification. The page numbers referenced in the following section are in reference to the October 2021 Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery EA.

The majority of the comments received are not "substantive" under NEPA, meaning the comments did not provide new information, identify a different way to meet the need, point to a specific flaw in the analysis, suggest alternate methodologies, make factual corrections, or identify a different source of credible research that would require edits to the EA. Commenters provided various suggestions for features to include in the proposed action, which include but are not limited to the following: add interpretive exhibits; incorporate sustainability features; provide additional public bathrooms; repair terracing; and expand amenities, facilities, and services for employee housing. Many of these suggestions are part of the ongoing operations and maintenance in the SMMNRA, which will continue. NPS appreciates public input on potential actions, amenities, and services in the SMMNRA and will consider these suggestions in future park planning. Because these comments (i.e., non-substantive under NEPA) do not address the proposed action's environmental effects or the adequacy or accuracy of the environmental analysis, no changes were made to the EA in response to these comments.

Proposed Action

Comment Topic: Several commenters expressed concerns that the Western Town film set structures that were burned in the Woolsey Fire would not be rebuilt as part of the proposed action.

NPS Response: The NPS intends to reestablish film sets in Paramount Ranch to perpetuate the same working movie ranch that existed for the past 90 years. The presence of film sets contributes to public enjoyment and attractiveness for location filming. The reconstructed sets could look different from the former NPS Western Town and Hertz Western Town, and the components may change depending on the filming activities. A few companies have expressed interest in offering philanthropic assistance to help NPS reestablish movie sets after planning for the core buildings in the EA is complete.

Reestablishing the movie set structures was not described in the EA because this activity does not meet the criteria for a major federal action, as defined under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1508.18. Specifically, reestablishing the film set structures does not require any activities that are subject to environmental review, such as ground disturbance or permitting. The proposed action, which includes constructing the permanent buildings that make up the historic core and backbone of the Ranch's filming activities, on the other hand,

warranted environmental review in the EA. The construction of these buildings requires ground disturbance for grading and installing utilities and foundations. In addition, NPS will be required to obtain coverage for these activities under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit.

Comment Topic: Commenters expressed concerns about whether adequate accessible parking and accessible paths were included in the project design.

NPS Response: The proposed action will meet current design codes and standards for accessibility, as required under the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS)/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The proposed action will include sufficient code-compliant accessible parking stalls and accessible paths of travel at Paramount Ranch, Rocky Oaks, and Peter Strauss Ranch.

Comment Topic: A comment identified existing drainage issues at Paramount Ranch and provided suggestions for stormwater improvements.

NPS Response: The proposed drainage and stormwater improvements at Paramount Ranch are described on page 24 of the EA. Drainage issues at the site were taken into consideration during the design phase of this project and the proposed improvements will correct stormwater runoff deficiencies and flooding issues at the site.

Comment Topic: Comments expressed concerns about increasing the number of parking spaces at Peter Strauss Ranch, and the potential for large special events to result in increased traffic, lighting, and noise levels.

NPS Response: The expanded parking at Peter Strauss Ranch will accommodate the same parking demand that existed prior to the Woolsey Fire. The proposed number of parking spaces will not exceed the capacities of the reestablished event venues. As discussed on page 47 of the EA, the proposed action will result in increases in visitation, public events, and special uses (e.g., filming and private functions) compared to existing post-fire conditions. However, the uses and types of activities will be consistent with pre-fire conditions, and the activities will not be expanded beyond the area previously used for public events and special uses. As discussed on pages 6 through 11 of the EA, traffic, lighting, and noise levels associated with large events will be similar to pre-fire conditions.

Comment Topic: Commenters expressed concerns about locating employee housing at the undeveloped meadow in Rocky Oaks.

NPS Response: NPS evaluated nine potential locations for employee housing within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA). Several factors were weighed in the site selection, including response times to NPS properties, existing use levels at each site, and potential impacts to environmental resources. Each site presented different constraints.

Although NPS considered locating the employee housing at Paramount Ranch, the entire site is a cultural landscape that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As such, the addition of buildings outside of the historic site plan would likely be considered an adverse effect to cultural resources by the State Historic Preservation Office, which would conflict with NPS standards for the protection of cultural resources. Consequently, locating employee housing at Paramount Ranch was dismissed from consideration.

Overall, Rocky Oaks was determined to be the most favorable location for employee housing. Specifically, Rocky Oaks is not connected to a long-distance trail network and has the lowest level of public use of NPS' park units, except for Arroyo Sequit. In addition, placing law enforcement and fire personnel near Kanan Road and Mulholland Highway will allow optimal response times for responding to issues within the SMMNRA.

Wildfire

Comment Topic: Commenters expressed concerns about damage to proposed structures from future wildfires.

NPS Response: As discussed on page 20 of the EA, all proposed structures will meet the International Urban Wildland Urban Interface (IWUIC) standards for an extreme fire environment. The IWUIC standards include provisions for addressing fire spread, accessibility, defensible space, and water supply for buildings constructed near wildland areas. These IWUIC standards have been effective in preventing fire damage to structures during the Woolsey Fire. For example, the La Kretz Center, which was built at Rocky Oaks in 2017-2018 and constructed to meet IWUIC standards, survived the Woolsey Fire without damage. Features of the La Kretz Center include concrete aprons around the building, exterior sprinklers, and cement board siding. The Brandenberger-Brown House, located approximately 50 feet from the La Kretz Center, was constructed before the IWUIC standards were established and was destroyed in the fire.

In addition to meeting IWUIC standards, NPS will continue to implement fire management practices described on page 20 of the EA. Although wildfire risks cannot be completely eliminated, NPS is using the best available information including building codes and site design to ensure the new buildings can withstand future fire events.

California Red-Legged Frog

Comment Topic: Concerns were expressed regarding sustaining California red-legged frog populations.

NPS Response: As noted on page 52 of the EA, the California red-legged frog has not been observed within the biological study area, which includes the construction area and a 200-meter buffer. The absence of California red-legged frog from the biological study area has been confirmed during annual surveys. Known populations of the species in the Santa Monica Mountains, including reintroduction sites, are located over one mile outside the

biological study area. These populations are located in different watersheds or sub-watersheds and have no direct stream connections to the biological study area.

As discussed on page 52 of the EA, potentially suitable habitats near the biological study area are occupied by invasive predators that prevent occurrence of the California red-legged frog. As noted on page 57 of the EA, the avoidance and minimization measures for amphibian, fish and aquatic invertebrate species (included in Appendix A of the EA) will ensure that potentially suitable downstream habitat for California red-legged frog will not be affected by construction-related sediment and pollutants. These measures include implementing stormwater best management practices (BMP) and dust control measures to prevent sediment from entering waters, installing protective fencing around waters and wetlands, and implementing spill prevention BMPs and a spill response plan. The USFWS concurred with NPS' finding of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" for the California red-legged frog on March 11, 2022.

Although reintroduction efforts for the California red-legged frog are not included in the scope of this proposed action, the NPS has committed to sustaining and recovering at-risk species throughout the SMMNRA. The NPS has a long-term amphibian and reptile monitoring program that oversees recovery efforts and conducts annual surveys of California-red legged frog populations in the park.

Visitor Experience

Comment Topic: Commenters expressed concerns about visitation levels and visitor experience during the construction period.

NPS Response: Construction-related effects on visitor experience are discussed on pages 46 and 47 the EA. Peter Strauss Ranch is currently closed to the public and therefore, construction activities will not reduce site visitation or diminish visitor experience. At Paramount Ranch, construction areas will be fenced and temporarily closed to the public; however, parking and access to recreational uses, such as trails and picnic areas, will be maintained during the construction period. A 0.14-mile segment of the Rocky Oaks loop trail will be temporarily closed during construction, but the primary visitor use area and other trails will remain open. At Paramount Ranch and Rocky Oaks, construction activities will temporarily detract from existing views and the use of construction equipment will result in short-term increases in noise levels, emissions, and traffic congestion. As discussed in the EA, the resource protection measures in Appendix A will minimize these temporary construction-related effects and visitor experience is anticipated to benefit over the long-term.

Public Involvement

Comment Topic: Commenter expressed concerns that the public was not given enough information about the proposed action or enough time to provide comments.

NPS Response: Outreach for fire recovery began in November 2018, weeks after the Woolsey Fire. A press event was held at Paramount Ranch with partners and local, state, and federal elected officials and staff. At that event, NPS announced its intent to restore visitor services at Paramount Ranch. The park has provided regular updates on recovery actions at monthly meetings of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The Board and Advisory Committee include elected officials and representatives of elected bodies from the project area. At Peter Strauss Ranch, the superintendent briefed neighbors and elected officials on proposed recovery plans at a February 2020 event to break ground on the roadway bridge, which serves as a link between the eastern and western parts of the site.

Public engagement for this project was completed in accordance with NEPA regulations at 43 CFR 46.305, *Director's Order 75A: Civic Engagement and Public Involvement* (DO-75A), and standard NPS practices and recommendations. The Department of Interior NEPA regulations require that public notification and public involvement be conducted to the "extent practicable" when an EA is being prepared (43 CFR 46.305[a]). A 30-day NEPA public scoping period was held from June 15 through July 16, 2021. The EA was made available for public review during a 30-day period from October 25 to November 24, 2021. These comment periods were announced on the National Park Service Planning, Environmental and Public Comment (PEPC) website and through press releases and social media posts.

Minor Edits to the Environmental Assessment

This section includes minor revisions to the EA in response to comments received during the public review period. The page numbers referenced in the following section are in reference to the October 2021 Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery EA. The revisions did not result in changes to the conclusions in the EA and did not warrant additional environmental analysis. These errata, when combined with the 2021 Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery EA and its supporting appendix, are the only amendment deemed necessary for the purposes of completing the EA.

In reference to the EA, the page number and topic heading are provided. Original text from the EA is identified to allow for comparison to the text change. Removed text is shown in ~~strikethroughs~~ and new text is shown in underlines.

Oak Tree Removal

The following changes were made to correct several statements throughout the EA that refer to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (Section 22.56.2050 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances). As a federal agency, NPS is not subject to local regulations, including the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance. However, NPS is committed to protecting oak trees in a manner that is equivalent to or exceeds the Los Angeles County ordinance requirements. If oak tree removal is deemed necessary, NPS will adhere to the Tree Replacement Requirements and Protected Zones for Trees, noted in Appendix A of the EA (also included in Appendix C of this FONSI).

- **Add.** Page 7, second paragraph. NPS will adhere to the Tree Replacement Requirements and Protected Zones for Trees, noted in Appendix A, which are equivalent to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (Section 22.56.2050 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances) for tree protection.
- **Add.** Page 28, first paragraph. NPS would adhere to the Tree Replacement Requirements and Protected Zones for Trees, noted in Appendix A, which are equivalent to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (Section 22.56.2050 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances) for oak tree protection.
- **Add.** Page A-2, Oak Tree Removal. As a federal agency, NPS is not subject to local regulations. However, if oak tree removal is deemed necessary, SMMNRA will adhere to the Tree Replacement Requirements and Protected Zones for Trees, noted above, which are equivalent to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (Section 22.56.2050 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances).

**Appendix B:
A Non-Impairment Determination**

Non-Impairment Determination for the Woolsey Fire Disaster Recovery Project

The Prohibition on Impairment of Park Resources and Values

NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Section 1.4.4, explains the prohibition of impairment of park resources and values:

While Congress has given the Service management discretion to allow impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement (generally enforceable by the federal courts) that the Park Service must leave park resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. This, the cornerstone of the 1916 Organic Act, establishes the primary responsibility of the National Park Service. It ensures that park resources and values will continue to exist in a condition that will allow the American people to have present and future opportunities for enjoyment of them. The impairment of park resources and values may not be allowed by the Service unless directly and specifically provided for by the legislation or by the proclamation establishing the park. The relevant legislation or proclamation must provide explicitly (not by implication or inference) for the activity, in terms that keep the Service from having the authority to manage the activity so as to avoid the impairment.

What is Impairment?

NPS *Management Policies 2006*, Section 1.4.5, “What Constitutes Impairment of Park Resources and Values,” and Section 1.4.6, “What Constitutes Park Resources and Values,” provide an explanation of impairment. “Impairment is an impact that, in the professional judgement of the responsible NPS manager, will harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise will be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values.” Section 1.4.5 of *Management Policies 2006* states:

An impact to any park resource or value may, but does not necessarily, constitute impairment. An impact would be more likely to constitute impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is:

- Necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, or
- Key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park, or
- Identified as a goal in the park’s general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents as being of significance.

An impact would be less likely to constitute an impairment if it is an unavoidable result of an action necessary to preserve or restore the integrity of park resources or values and it cannot be further mitigated. An impact that may, but would not necessarily, lead to impairment may result from NPS activities in managing the park, visitor activities, or activities undertaken by

concessioners, contractors, and others operating in the park. Impairment may also result from sources or activities outside the park.

Per Section 1.4.5 of *Management Policies 2006*, park resources and values at risk for being impaired include:

- The park's scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and the processes and conditions that sustain them, including, to the extent present in the park: the ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the park and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in daytime and at night; natural landscapes; natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archaeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric site, structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals;
- Appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the above resources, to the extent that can be done without impairing them;
- The park's role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and
- Any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the park was established.

Impairment Determination for the Selected Alternative

This determination of impairment has been prepared for the selected alternative described in this Finding of No Significant Impact. An impairment determination is made for the following resource topics: (1) historic structures and cultural landscapes and (2) threatened and endangered species and crucial habitat.

Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended (16 USC 470 et seq.) and its implementing regulations under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800 require all federal agencies to consider effects of federal actions on historic properties, including historic structures eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Known cultural landscapes in the area of potential effects (APE) include the Paramount Ranch and Peter Strauss Ranch cultural landscapes. Several extant buildings, structures, sites, and landscape features within the APE were identified as contributing to these cultural landscapes.

The selected alternative involves reestablishing facilities and implementing site improvements within the Paramount Ranch and Peter Strauss Ranch cultural landscapes. These actions will not alter characteristics of either of the cultural landscapes and their contributing resources in a manner that will diminish their historic integrity of the properties' design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. The selected alternative is designed to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's

Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes for the rehabilitation of the cultural landscape features. As such, the cultural landscapes will remain eligible for listing in the NRHP upon completion of the selected alternative. Therefore, the selected alternative will have no adverse effect on historic structures or cultural landscapes. Rather, the selected alternative will contribute to long-term beneficial effects to historic structures and cultural landscapes at the SMMNRA because the selected alternative will address damage resulting from the Woolsey Fire to the cultural landscapes and loss of features that contributed to the integrity of the properties.

SHPO concurred with the park's no historic properties affected finding for Rocky Oaks on January 27, 2022. SHPO concurred on June 14, 2022 with NPS' finding that the proposed undertaking would have no adverse effect on cultural resources within the APE at Paramount Ranch with protection measures and monitoring as conditions of approval. Consultation for the Peter Strauss Ranch, with a proposed finding of no adverse effect, will be completed when funding for that portion of the proposed action is available.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

As described in Section 3.3 of the EA, 20 federally listed threatened and endangered species have potential to occur within the boundary of the biological study area or be affected by the selected alternative. Fifteen of these species were determined to have no potential to be affected by the project because either (1) the biological study area is outside the species' known range, or (2) the biological study area lacks suitable habitat conditions for these species. The potential for the selected alternative to effect the remaining five species is discussed in the following sections.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Coastal California Gnatcatcher, and Least Bell's Vireo:

These bird species have potential to occur within the biological study area due to the presence of suitable habitat. The selected alternative has potential to adversely affect these species through the loss of habitat due to tree and vegetation removal and the introduction of invasive species and pathogens. In addition, excessive noise and human presence has potential to disrupt normal behavior, cause nest or territory abandonment, and mask the presence of predators. However, the selected alternative will not require the removal of vegetation that provides potential habitat for these species. In addition, the selected alternative includes implementation of measures to avoid and minimize impacts on bird species, as listed in Appendix C of this FONSI. With implementation of these measures, potential impacts will be minimized such that they will not adversely affect the southwestern willow flycatcher, coastal California gnatcatcher, and least Bell's vireo. Furthermore, the proposed action will have no effect on the critical habitat for these bird species based on the distance from the nearest critical habitat to the biological study area. The USFWS concurred with this determination on March 11, 2022.

California Red-Legged Frog: This amphibian species is not expected to occur in the biological study area. Temporary, construction-related sediment and pollutants have potential to affect the California red-legged frog if undetected populations of the species occur within or downstream of the biological study area. However, effects on the species will be insignificant based on the scale of construction work and the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to prevent impacts on waterways (Appendix C of this FONSI). With implementation of these measures, these potential impacts will be minimized such that they will not adversely affect the California red-legged frog. The proposed action will have no effect on critical habitat for the California red-legged frog based on the distance from the nearest critical habitat to the biological study area. The USFWS concurred with this determination on March 11, 2022.

Lyon's Pentachaeta: Lyon's pentachaeta was not observed within the project sites at Paramount Ranch, Rocky Oaks, or Peter Strauss Ranch, and the proposed action will not adversely affect occurrences of this species. However, the proposed action will remove 0.7 acre of designated critical habitat for Lyon's pentachaeta at Rocky Oaks. While the project will adversely affect Lyon's pentachaeta critical habitat at the Rocky Oaks project site, mitigation to enhance critical habitat for this species (Appendix C of this FONSI) will be sufficient to replace and add to the habitat values diminished by the proposed action, such that overall critical habitat conditions in the region will not be adversely affected. The USFWS concurred with this determination and issued a biological opinion on March 11, 2022.

Summary

The NPS has determined that the implementation of the selected action will not constitute an impairment of the resources or values of the park. As described in the sections above, implementing the selected action is not anticipated to impair resources or values that are essential to the purposes identified in the establishing legislation of the park, key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park, or identified as significant in the park's relevant planning documents. This conclusion is based on the consideration of the purpose and significance of the park, a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the EA, relevant scientific studies, the comments provided by the public and others, and the professional judgement of the decision maker guided by the direction of the NPS *Management Policies 2006*.

**Appendix C:
Selected Alternative Mitigation Measures**

The National Park Service (NPS) places a strong emphasis on avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts. To help ensure that the construction and operational activities protect natural, cultural, and social resources and the quality of the visitor experience within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), resource protection measures have been developed. The following table includes measures that NPS/SMMNRA staff will implement prior to, during, and after construction of the proposed action.

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Air Quality			
Dust Abatement Measures	<p>The contractor will comply with standard dust abatement measures, which may include the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stabilize soils with water or other dust palliatives ▶ Cover loads on haul trucks ▶ Employ speed limits on unpaved roads ▶ Minimize areas of vegetation clearing ▶ Revegetate disturbed areas after construction ▶ Suspend dust-generating activities during high winds to prevent dust clouds 	Contractor	Clean Air Act
Hydrological/Water Resources			
Construction Activity Monitoring	SMMNRA staff will monitor and/or direct water bar and drainage placement, brushing and clearing, and revegetation activities.	SMMNRA	Clean Water Act
Fill Material	SMMNRA staff will direct contractors on where to obtain fill and other materials for trails, as well as how to apply fill materials such as soil, gravel, and rocks.	SMMNRA	NPS Management Policies
Erosion and Sedimentation Controls	<p>Where appropriate, SMMNRA will direct the contractor to implement permanent erosion control features, such as rock walls and rolling dips to stabilize soils.</p> <p>The contractor will avoid placing soils and other materials within drainages to prevent potential sedimentation during rain events.</p> <p>The contractor will schedule substantial ground-disturbing work outside of anticipated heavy rain events.</p> <p>During construction, the contractor will implement standard erosion-control measures, such as erosion matting and silt fencing, where earthwork is needed to reduce erosion, surface scouring, and discharge to drainages.</p> <p>The contractor will minimize the time that soil is left exposed.</p> <p>The contractor will re-spread topsoil in as near to the original location as possible. Spreading topsoil will be supplemented with scarifying, mulching, seeding, and/or planting with species native to the immediate area.</p> <p>Conserving native topsoil will minimize vegetation impacts and potential compaction and erosion of bare soils. The use of conserved topsoil will help preserve microorganisms and seeds of native plants.</p>	SMMNRA; Contractor	Clean Water Act
Wetland Fencing	Where wetlands occur in the vicinity of construction activities, SMMNRA will direct the contractor to clearly demarcate construction limits with fencing to minimize the potential for wetland fill outside of the intended project site.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Clean Water Act

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Impervious Surfaces	SMMNRA will incorporate porous pavement into the site design, where possible, to reduce impervious surface area.	SMMNRA	Clean Water Act
Biological Resources (Trees and Vegetation)			
Protected Zones for Trees	<p>SMMNRA will establish a Protected Zone extending to at least five feet outside the drip line (canopy edge), or 15 feet from the trunk of a tree, whichever distance is greater, around native oaks, sycamores, walnuts, ashes, and other trees of historic or cultural value within and adjacent to the project site.</p> <p>Tree protection measures will be established with review and approval by an International Society of Arboriculture-certified (ISA-certified) or American Society of Consulting Arborists-certified (ASCA-certified) consulting arborist.</p> <p>SMMNRA will direct the contractor to enclose Protected Zones as follows. For trees within 30 feet of construction areas, the contractor will use 6-foot or higher chain link fencing with posts sunk into the ground (not movable) and a lockable access gate for tree maintenance. For trees beyond 30 feet from construction areas, the contractor will use 4-foot or higher orange safety fencing. No-access signs will be posted on the protective fencing to prohibit entry.</p> <p>The contractor will not be allowed to operate equipment or machinery, store materials, remove vegetation, or conduct earth-moving activities (e.g., grading, trenching, or excavating) within a Protected Zone without review and approval by a qualified arborist.</p> <p>If construction activities must be performed within a Protected Zone, the contractor will utilize hand tools or small hand-held power tools. The contractor will conserve any major roots encountered to the extent possible. All work within a Protected Zone will be monitored and supervised by a qualified arborist.</p> <p>SMMNRA will direct the contractor to complete any trenching immediately adjacent to (outside) the Protected Zone by hand or with small tools. For any trenching within and immediately outside the Protected Zone, a qualified arborist will be allowed to properly trim the roots (i.e., make clean minimum diameter cuts) and implement protective measures (e.g., cover roots with wet burlap) as necessary until trenching work is completed and the trench is filled.</p> <p>No planting or irrigation systems will be installed within the drip line of any oak tree.</p>	SMMNRA; Contractor	Best Management Practices
Tree Replacement Requirements	<p>SMMNRA will replace any removed trees with the same or other appropriate species at a minimum ratio of 3:1. SMMNRA will plant replacement trees within the same park unit as the removed trees. The replacement trees will be of indigenous origin and similar in canopy cover at maturity to existing native trees on site.</p> <p>SMMNRA will monitor replacement trees for a minimum of seven years to evaluate the growth, health, and condition of replacement trees. SMMNRA will implement necessary actions to promote the health and growth of the replacement trees and will replace any replacement tree that fails to survive.</p>	SMMNRA	Best Management Practices

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Oak Tree Removal	As a federal agency, NPS is not subject to local regulations. However, if oak tree removal is deemed necessary, SMMNRA will adhere to the Tree Replacement Requirements and Protected Zones for Trees, noted above, which are equivalent to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (Section 22.56.2050 of the Los Angeles County Code of Ordinances).	SMMNRA	Best Management Practices
Revegetation of Disturbed Areas	The contractor will revegetate disturbed areas with a native hydroseed mix. The contractor will use native and/or other SMMNRA-approved species where any non-tree vegetation is lost during construction.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Clean Water Act
Lyon's Pentachaeta Pollinators	The NPS may need to trim or remove trees and vegetation to accommodate construction work, but there will be little or no loss of plants that may support Lyon's pentachaeta pollinators.	SMMNRA	Endangered Species Act
Biological Resources (Invasive Plants and Plant Species)			
Pre-Construction Invasive Plant Removal	The NPS will survey construction areas and remove invasive plants prior to beginning work.	SMMNRA	Endangered Species Act NPS Management Policies 2006 Executive Order 13751
Prevention of the Spread of Invasive Species	BMPs for cleaning equipment and vehicles will be employed to prevent invasive plant, animal, and pathogen spread while performing work,, as described below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contractors must clean all vehicles, trucks, and equipment prior to entering the site to control the importation of mud, plant propagules, and other unwanted substances. ▶ Contractors must steam clean earth-moving equipment (including haul vehicles) to remove mud and plant propagules. ▶ An NPS representative will inspect equipment and vehicles for proper cleaning prior to their entry onto the job site. 	Contractor	Endangered Species Act Executive Order 13751
Fill and Stockpiled Materials	If contractors need fill, the NPS will require the contractors to obtain it elsewhere at the park site, if feasible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ If the only option is to import fill, the NPS will require contractors to use only clean fill. The Contractor will notify NPS of the intended source of fill material and NPS will inspect the source for invasive plants and other unwanted organisms and materials prior to approval for importation to the park site. ▶ The NPS will inspect and monitor any materials stockpiled at the park units. 	Contractor	Management Policies 2006 Executive Order 13112 Executive Order 13751
Post-Construction Invasive Plant Monitoring	The NPS will monitor the project area and surrounding vegetation for five years after completion of the project for presence of new invasive species and signs of pathogens. The NPS will incorporate the sites into their invasive plant monitoring program and will monitor under a schedule defined by that program. The NPS will remove invasive plants as required.	SMMNRA	Management Policies 2006 Executive Order 13112 Executive Order 13751

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Landscaping	The NPS will require all landscaping plants used at this park unit to be site appropriate non-invasive species. The NPS will not permit use of invasive plants and will require contractors to inspect all plant stock and soil brought to the site for undesirable plants and pathogens.	Contractor	Management Policies 2006 Executive Order 13112 Executive Order 13751
Imported Plant Materials	The NPS will inspect and approve all plant materials imported for subsequent temporary use under permitted activities, such as filming.	Contractor	Management Policies 2006 Executive Order 13112 Executive Order 13751
Biological Resources (Bird Species)			
Habitat	The NPS will not remove vegetation that could provide potential habitat for southwestern willow flycatchers, least Bell's vireos, or coastal California gnatcatchers. The NPS may need to trim or remove trees and vegetation to accommodate construction work, but the impact on habitat would be negligible.	SMMNRA	Migratory Bird Act Endangered Species Act
Nesting Bird Surveys	The NPS will require a qualified biologist to conduct nesting bird surveys throughout the project area during the breeding season (February through August) no more than three days before beginning work and prior to restarting work after breaks longer than three days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The NPS will evaluate any nesting species discovered on a case-by-case basis, modifying work and/or setting buffers appropriate to the species present and type of work to be performed. ▶ If the NPS cannot obtain appropriate work modification and distancing, the NPS will halt work until nesting has completed. The NPS considers nesting complete when chicks are no longer returning to the nest or its immediate vicinity; typically, two to three days after fledging. ▶ If work can continue after establishing appropriate buffers, the NPS will monitor nests to determine the effectiveness of the protections employed. 	SMMNRA	Migratory Bird Act Endangered Species Act Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
Pollution Emission Controls	The NPS will require all construction equipment have adequate mufflers and pollution emission controls.	Contractor	Clean Air Act
Hours of Construction	The NPS will limit hours of construction to between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.	Contractor	Noise Control Act
Biological Resources (Amphibian, Fish, and Aquatic Invertebrate Species)			
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	SMMNRA will develop a SWPPP in compliance with the California State Water Resources Control Board General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity.	SMMNRA	Clean Water Act

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Construction Limit Fencing	The NPS will require contractors to clearly demarcate construction limits with fencing or by other means to avoid potentially introducing fill into streams/wetlands.	Contractor	Clean Water Act
Stormwater Best Management Practices	<p>The NPS will require BMPs for minimizing introduction of sediments into waterways including developing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in compliance with a California State Water Resources Control Board General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity.</p> <p>The NPS will require contractors to employ appropriate stormwater BMPs at each site (such as use of wattles, silt fencing, and/or gravel bags) to prevent off-site migration of waste into nearby waters in accordance with the permit and SWPPP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The NPS will require contractors to separate work areas, including material sources, using a dike or other suitable barrier so that sediment, petroleum products, chemicals, and other liquid or solid material do not enter waters. ▶ The NPS will require contractors to avoid discharge of material into, or siltation of, water when constructing or removing barriers. The NPS will require contractors remove and properly dispose of sediment and other material collected by the barrier. 	Contractor	Clean Water Act
Dust Control Measures	The NPS will require contractors use engineering controls to manage dust, such as watering down soil prior to start of work.	Contractor	Clean Air Act
Spill Prevention Best Management Practices	<p>The NPS will require contractors to employ spill prevention BMPs at each site to prevent introduction of petroleum and deleterious chemicals into the soil and nearby waters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The NPS will limit operation and parking of equipment to the construction site. ▶ The NPS will prohibit the operation or storage of vehicles and equipment leaking oil, gas, or antifreeze within park boundaries. Prior to commencement of work each day, the NPS will require contractors to inspect equipment for leaks and to repair immediately or remove from park boundaries. ▶ The NPS will prohibit draining oil, hydraulic fluids, antifreeze, or other chemicals onto the ground within park boundaries. ▶ The NPS will require contractors to completely contain diesel fuel at the work site. 	Contractor	Clean Water Act
Spill Response	<p>The NPS will require contractors to develop a spill response plan and implement immediately on detecting a spill.</p> <p>The NPS will require contractors to keep a supply of absorbent materials manufactured specifically for containment and cleanup of hazardous materials at the job site in the event of a spill.</p> <p>The NPS will require contractors to contain and dispose of contaminated materials following state and federal regulations.</p>	Contractor	Clean Water Act
California Red-Legged Frog Monitoring	In addition to project-specific surveys, the NPS will continue to monitor California red-legged frog as part of their other ongoing survey programs (e.g., long-term stream monitoring, California red-legged frog recovery program).	SMMNRA	Endangered Species Act

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Biological Resources (Wildlife)			
Dangerous Wildlife Encounters	Construction crews will not engage in any activity that causes harm or destroys any wildlife, including intentional killing of rattlesnakes (<i>Crotalus</i>). The contractor will implement appropriate safety protocols to manage rattlesnakes and other dangerous wildlife without lethal means, such as implementing avoidance measures or waiting for the animal to leave the work area.	Contractor	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
Preventing Accidental Harm to Wildlife	The contractor will implement BMPs to prevent accidental harm to wildlife, which may include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The contractor will cover any excavations left overnight or provide escape ramps with a 1:2 rise (vertical) to run (horizontal) ratio to prevent wildlife from becoming entrapped. ▶ Field crews will search open trenches or steep-walled holes prior to initiating daily activities to ensure wildlife are not trapped. ▶ If any wildlife is found, the contractor will notify a qualified biologist or designee to either relocate the species to adjacent habitat or to allow the species to naturally disperse. ▶ A biologist or designee will complete visual checks prior to moving vehicles and equipment to avoid crushing wildlife. 	Contractor	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
Wildlife Scavenging	The contractor will implement BMPs to reduce the potential for wildlife to scavenge food from humans, which may include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wildlife-proof garbage containers will be required on all construction sites. ▶ Feeding or approaching wildlife will be prohibited. ▶ Work areas will be inspected for food remains and micro-trash (e.g., plastic caps, bolts, screws, wiring, tape, and zip ties). 	Contractor	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
Outdoor Lighting	The NPS will limit use of outdoor lighting to the minimum necessary and will shield it to prevent disturbance of fauna.	SMMNRA	NPS Management Policies

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Biological Resources (Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat)			
<p>Mitigation for the Loss of Critical Habitat for Lyon’s pentachaeta</p>	<p>SMMNRA will mitigate the loss of critical habitat for Lyon’s pentachaeta (<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>) by improving the quality of existing critical habitat at Rocky Oaks through control of invasive plants and the expansion of primary constituent elements (PCE). The NPS will continue to implement a program to eradicate invasive species such as Harding grass (<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>) and Italian thistle (<i>Carduus pycnocephalus pycnocephalus</i>), which form dense stands that overtop Lyon’s pentachaeta and eliminate bare ground. This invasive plant control program will treat 6.5 acres within and 4.5 acres immediately adjacent to the designated critical habitat at Rocky Oaks. Target invasive plants will be monitored, and treatment areas expanded as necessary.</p> <p>SMMNRA will also implement a program of thinning annual grasses and forbs and removing thatch adjacent to the two largest stands of Lyon’s pentachaeta at Rocky Oaks. The NPS will treat approximately 0.3 acres at the stand immediately east of the stock pond and slightly more than 0.1 acre at the stand east of the Rocky Oaks Loop Trail. This program will more than double the amount of habitat with suitable bare ground at these two locations, a PCE for Lyon’s pentachaeta, at these two sites.</p> <p>The NPS will manage fire fuels reduction zones within existing Lyon’s pentachaeta critical habitat at Rocky Oaks in a way to preserve and potentially enhance Lyon’s pentachaeta habitat. Within the fuels zone and using mechanical or manual methods, the NPS will cut grasses early before the Lyon’s pentachaeta is up, and as a precaution, the NPS will cut grasses at six inches, above the height of the Lyon’s pentachaeta. This will reduce crowding by grasses and the buildup of thatch. The NPS will additionally time the cutting to avoid the spread of seeds from invasive species during maintenance activities (Tiszler, pers. comm. 2022b). Where shrubs occur within the fire fuels reduction zone, the NPS will selectively thin or remove to create an open, non-contiguous canopy within a mosaic of bare ground.</p>	SMMNRA	Endangered Species Act
Archeological and Ethnographic Resources			
Avoidance of Archeological Resources	The contractor will avoid archeological resources either eligible for listing in or listed in the NRHP during construction. The limits of the area(s) surveyed for archeological resources will be identified at the construction contract start-up meeting and clearly flagged and/or fenced in the field.	SMMNRA; Contractor	National Historic Preservation Act Archeological Resources Protection Act
Penalties for Collecting or Damaging Cultural Resources	SMMNRA will ensure that all contractors and subcontractors are informed of the penalties for illegally collecting artifacts or intentionally damaging archeological sites, historic buildings and structures, or elements of the cultural landscape.	SMMNRA; Contractor	National Historic Preservation Act Archeological Resources Protection Act

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Archeological and Native American Monitoring	<p>SMMNRA or the contractor will retain an archeological monitor for all ground-disturbing activities that have not been previously subject to excavation. In addition, SMMNRA or the contractor will retain a Native American monitor for any activities with potential to affect tribal resources, as determined in consultation with traditionally associated Native American tribes.</p> <p>If previously unknown archeological resources are discovered during construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will be halted until the resources can be identified and documented. If the resources cannot be preserved in situ, an appropriate mitigation strategy will be developed in consultation with the SHPO and traditionally associated Native American tribes, as applicable.</p>	SMMNRA; Contractor	National Historic Preservation Act Archaeological Resources Protection Act
Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains	<p>In the unlikely event that human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are discovered during construction, the contractor will follow the provisions outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 USC 3001) of 1990. If non-Indian human remains are discovered, the contractor will follow standard reporting procedures to the proper authorities, as will all applicable federal, state, and local laws.</p>	SMMNRA; Contractor	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Native American Consultation	<p>SMMNRA will consult with associated Native American tribes to develop and execute park programs in a manner that respects the beliefs, traditions, and other cultural values of the tribes that have ancestral ties to park lands. The NPS recognizes the past and present connections of associated tribes with park lands. In addition, the NPS recognizes that potential resources, places, and traces of tribal use are important parts of the cultural environment and will be preserved, protected, and interpreted as appropriate.</p>	SMMNRA	National Historic Preservation Act Archaeological Resources Protection Act Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Historic Resources and Cultural Landscapes			
Rehabilitation of Cultural Landscape Features	<p>SMMNRA will adhere to the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> for the rehabilitation of the cultural landscape features.</p>	SMMNRA	National Historic Preservation Act
Buildings Eligible for Listing or Listed in the National Register of Historic Places	<p>No building determined eligible for listing or listed in the NRHP will be removed or allowed to naturally deteriorate (a process commonly known as "demolition by neglect") without prior review by park and region cultural resource specialists, including approval by the regional director and consultation with the SHPO.</p> <p>Before a structure that is listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP is removed or allowed to naturally deteriorate, appropriate documentation to record the structure will be prepared in accordance with the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation</i> as mandated by Section 110(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act. This documentation will be submitted to the HABS/HAER/HALS program, as well as any local repositories deemed appropriate, as identified through consultation with the SHPO.</p>	SMMNRA	National Historic Preservation Act

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Night Sky (Lightscape Management)			
Light Scap Management	The NPS endeavors to preserve natural ambient lightscapes and protect night sky viewing, which are natural resources. SMMNRA will limit the use of artificial outdoor lighting to the minimum necessary. SMMNRA will ensure that all artificial outdoor lighting consists of emission spectrum lighting, is limited to the minimum necessary for basic safety requirements, and is shielded to the maximum extent possible to direct light on the intended subject and out of the night sky.	SMMNRA	NPS Management Policies
Soundscape Management			
Soundscape Management	The contractor will implement standard noise abatement measures during construction, which may include the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Scheduling noise-generating activities that are in proximity to noise-sensitive uses during daytime hours. ▶ Utilizing best available noise control techniques wherever feasible. ▶ Using hydraulically or electrically powered impact tools when feasible. ▶ Locating temporary noise sources as far from sensitive uses as possible. 	Contractor	Noise Control Act
Visitor Use and Experience			
Education Program	SMMNRA will implement an education program to ensure that visitors understand the need and benefits of the proposed action.	SMMNRA	NPS Management Policies
Traffic Control Plan	SMMNRA will implement a traffic control plan with standard measures, such as strategies to maintain safe and efficient traffic flow during the construction period.	SMMNRA	Best Management Practices
Temporary Closure Notifications	SMMNRA will notify the public of any temporary park closures, including closure dates and alternate access points. Notifications will be posted on the park website, distributed at visitor centers within the park, and posted at the project sites. When closures are necessary, SMMNRA will publicize information on alternative opportunities for visitor use on the park website and install signage at the access points.	SMMNRA	Best Management Practices
Temporary Road Closures	Construction activities may require temporary road closures in which traffic may be periodically subjected to alternating, one-way flow. The NPS will inform visitors of construction activities and associated delays. The contractor will make all efforts to reduce delays as much as possible and to alert park staff as soon as possible if delays longer than normal are expected. Flaggers will be used during work hours to control traffic.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices
Construction Equipment Storage	The contractor will not store construction equipment along roadways overnight without prior approval of SMMNRA staff.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
General Measures			
Contractor Working Conditions	The contractor will provide safe on-site working conditions for employees working on and visiting NPS property. All work will be performed in accordance with applicable local jurisdiction orders, federal orders, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and recommendations related to best safety practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html .	Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices
Contractor Emergency Protocols	The contractor will hold a kickoff meeting to ensure that all workers are apprised of proper protocol to follow in the event of an emergency, including contact information for first responders.	Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices
Contractor Coordination	The contractor will follow all park rules and regulations and will coordinate all on-site activities with the NPS construction management representative.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Construction Contract NPS Management Policies
Hours of Construction	The contractor will perform all work between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, federal holidays excluded.	Contractor	Noise Control Act
Construction Equipment Staging	Construction equipment will be restricted to paved surfaces where practicable to avoid natural and cultural resources, including wetland areas. If construction equipment must be used or staged on unpaved surfaces, BMPs will be implemented in accordance with the General Permit and SWPPP to minimize potential for adverse impacts.	Contractor	Clean Water Act
Construction Contract Standards	The contractor will follow NPS construction contract standards during construction, including implementation of an accident prevention program, installation of warning signs at the construction site and along the nearby parking lots, and installation and maintenance of construction fences around the construction sites to prevent non-contractors and the public from entering the construction areas.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices
Spill Prevention and Pollution Control	The contractor will implement a spill prevention and pollution control program for hazardous materials. Standard measures could include procedures for hazardous materials storage and handling; spill containment, cleanup, and reporting; and limiting hazardous activities (e.g., refueling) to non-sensitive sites. The contractor will only conduct fueling of machinery in approved equipment staging areas away from water bodies. The contractor will immediately clean any spills of hazardous materials or fuel to prevent contamination or discharge into ground or surface waters. The contractor will regularly inspect construction equipment for leaks of fuel, lubricants, and other chemicals.	Contractor	Clean Water Act
Construction Specifications	All mitigation and protection measures will be clearly stated in the construction specifications.	SMMNRA; Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices

Topic	Resource Protection Measure	Responsible Party	Authority
Construction Zone	Before construction activities, the contractor will delineate construction zones with stakes or by other means in order to confine activity to the minimum area required for construction, as defined by NPS. The contractor will instruct workers to avoid conducting activities beyond the construction zone.	Contractor	Construction Contract Best Management Practices
Materials Recycling	The contractor will recycle as much steel, glass, and concrete as possible.	Contractor	NPS Management Policies
Lead Abatement	If lead paint is found, SMMNRA will implement a lead abatement plan to protect employees, contractors, and visitors from lead-contaminated materials.	SMMNRA	Toxic Substances Control Act
Asbestos Abatement	If asbestos is found, SMMNRA will implement an asbestos abatement plan to protect employees, contractors, and visitors from asbestos-contaminated materials.	SMMNRA	Toxic Substances Control Act