



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park

P. O. Box 577

Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7615(YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Jennifer Treutelaar

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2011-037 Lake Eleanor Campground Outhouse Removal and Replacement with Nonpermanent Composting Toilet (38473)

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

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

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

- Submit a Safety Plan to the Safety Office, Glenn Dean.
- Ensure effectiveness is reevaluated on an annual basis.
- Ensure screening does not obscure photovoltaic functionality.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 38473.

//Don L. Neubacher//
Don L. Neubacher

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: 2011-037 Lake Eleanor Campground Outhouse Removal & Replacement with Nonpermanent Composting Toilet

PEPC Project Number: 38473

Project Description:

The purpose of this project is to remove the deteriorated infrastructure from the Lake Eleanor (LE) Campground and ensure human waste from visitors to the Lake Eleanor campground is disposed of properly. LE Campground receives about 1,000 use nights per year. Two existing pit latrines are located approximately 216 feet from the high water line of LE (an auxiliary reservoir for the Hetch Hetchy System). Due to the deteriorated state of the current outhouses and the proximity to the lakeshore/water table, the effect on the water quality is a concern. The existing outhouses are also visually intrusive due to their location and unsightly condition.

Because there is no holding tank for the human waste in the outhouses (waste is deposited into large pits in the earth), continued use may negatively impact water quality in LE. The structures are unsightly and unsafe due to their state of disrepair. Anecdotal evidence from LE rangers is that campers bypass the latrines due to their appearance and perceived unsanitary conditions.

The park has analyzed various options including a) no action, b) removal of the existing pit latrines and requiring all users to cathole, c) removing the pit latrines and constructing a permanent composting restroom facility, and d) removing the pit latrines and using Romtec Trailside toilets that sit on top of the ground. According to NPS policy and the Pacific West Regional Office Public Health Officer, it is not an option to close the existing pits and dig new pit latrines.

The preferred solution is to use Romtec toilets, siting them ~280 feet farther from the high water line of Lake Eleanor and in a sunny location to maximize the technology of the composter. The facility can handle 1,150 overnight visitors per season. It measures 48" x 40" x 36" and weighs approximately 100 pounds. The unit sits on the ground with no ground disturbance. A privacy fence/screen of a compatible color will be constructed (designed and built by park staff). This will likely require minor post-hole penetration of the ground and will not obstruct photovoltaic functionality. The existing outhouse structures will be removed and the existing pits closed/remediated, resulting in an overall beneficial impact.

These toilets require regular, bimonthly maintenance, according to park subject matter experts. Adding bulking material (pine shavings) to the composter may be required if too much liquid develops. Visitor education and signage will be implemented to emphasize keeping liquid waste and trash out of the composter, thus reducing the frequency of transporting material. Only one toilet is believed to be needed to manage the use, but both will be placed in the campground to ensure project goals are met.

The park will evaluate effectiveness of the installed toilets annually. A manual with instructions, safety materials, etc. will be assembled for the onsite rangers. These will include the requirement to conduct an annual evaluation and instructions on how to do so.

Project Locations:

Tuolumne, California

Mitigation(s):

- Submit a Safety Plan to the Safety Office, Glenn Dean.
- Ensure effectiveness is reevaluated on an annual basis.
- Ensure screening does not obscure photovoltaic functionality.

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.8 Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.

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.

Signature

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher// **Date:** 4/18/12

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Yosemite National Park.*



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 03/07/2012

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-037 Lake Eleanor Campground Outhouse Removal & Replacement with Nonpermanent Composting Toilet
PEPC Project: 38473
Project Type: Facility removal/replacement (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Jennifer Treutelaar

B. 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.		Negligible			The fencing for the new toilets will need post holes dug. Eight holes will be buried one foot in diameter and one foot deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				

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
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				

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
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		Negligible			New restrooms will enhance visitor's experience by providing updated facilities; this is a beneficial impact.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			This project will not affect any archeological resources in the area.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				

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
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. 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?		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
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?		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
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)?		No		
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)?		No		

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1a. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? Yes
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes
5. Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (*e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project*) No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Jennifer Treutelaar	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Kimball Koch	Acting Historic Preservation Officer
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

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

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>4/4/12</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>4/12/12</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>4/17/12</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>4/18/12</u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: March 7, 2012

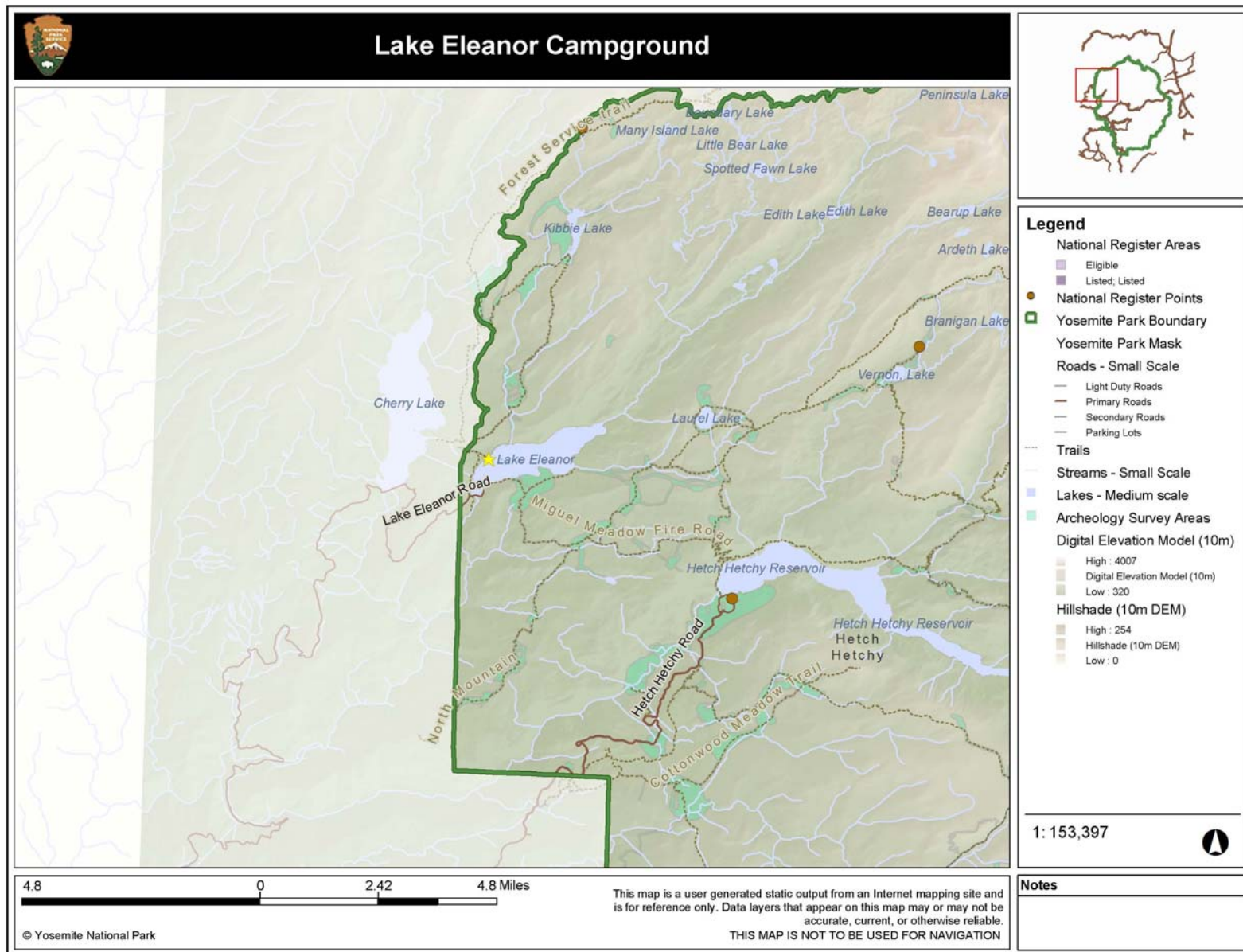
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2011-037 Lake Eleanor Campground Outhouse Removal & Replacement with Nonpermanent Composting Toilet
PEPC Project Number: 38473
Project Type: Facility removal/replacement (OTHER)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Jennifer Treutelaar

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			The fencing for the new toilets will need post holes dug. Eight holes will be buried one foot in diameter and one foot deep.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			The park Archeologist has determined there to be no adverse effects on resources with this project.
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		

Has a National Register form been completed?			N/A	
ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? (Name the river corridor)		No		
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?		No		
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?			N/A	
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness?	Yes			Minimum Requirement Analysis is attached.
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		





Existing Pit Privy



Existing Pit Privy



Dirt Walls (Definitely *Not* a Vault Toilet)



Potential Location for New Toilet



Example of a Romtec Toilet



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 03/29/2012

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2011-037 Lake Eleanor Campground Outhouse Removal & Replacement with Nonpermanent Composting Toilet

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 03/07/2012 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 38473

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

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

 No

 X 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

 X cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

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

 No **Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure**

 No **Replace historic features/elements in kind**

 No **Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure**

 No **Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)**

 No **Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape**

 No **Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible**

 No **Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible**

 Yes **Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources**

No **Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources**
No **Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)**
 Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

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

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: 10/20/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 03/23/2012
Comments: Project was distributed to park tribal partners on the February, 2012 consultation spreadsheet. No comments were received.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected X No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:
Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 09/09/2011

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: X No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 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
_____	<u> X </u>	_____

2. Documentation Method:

☐ 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: 1999 Programmatic Agreement

☐ E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document
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. Memo to SHPO/THPO

☐ H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: **No**

4. Stipulations and 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.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic Preservation Officer:

//Kimball Koch// **Date:** 3/29/12
Kimball Koch

E. 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.

Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher// **Date:** 4/18/12
Don Neubacher

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