



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Memorandum

To: Heather McKenny, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2012-005 Wilderness Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Reintroduction and Trout Eradication Project (40883)

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:

- No mitigations identified.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 40883.

//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.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 05/31/2012

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2012-005 Wilderness Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Reintroduction and Trout Eradication Project

PEPC Project Number: 40883

Project Description:

In Yosemite, there are as few as six populations of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs with 50 or more individuals, 24 populations with 10 to 49 individuals, and 164 populations with one to nine individuals. The decline of the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is being driven primarily by the introduction of non-native fish and the emerging infectious disease, chytridiomycosis. This project is needed to increase the amount of high quality aquatic habitat for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and to improve the success rate of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog reintroductions.

Under this project staff will:

- 1) Eradicate fish from 10 to 18 lakes, ponds, and marshes using gill nets, electrofishers, and fish traps.
- 2) Transport equipment and gear to restoration sites using pack stock.
- 3) Temporarily install bear boxes at restoration sites at the beginning of each season, packing them out at the end of the season.
- 4) Conduct experimental translocations including augmenting two existing translocation sites and conducting one new translocation.
- 5) Transport translocated frogs by helicopter.
- 6) Treat frogs prior to translocation with antifungal drug Itraconazole followed by experimental bioaugmentation with naturally occurring bacteria, *Janthinobacterium lividum*.
- 7) Continue long-term monitoring at approximately 130 sites annually and approximately 450 sites during summer 2012. Park staff will tag and swab individuals at 13 long-term mark-recapture sites, and temporarily installing one digital recording device at each of two sites.
- 8) Salvage egg masses and tadpoles from populations threatened by drought.

This project would occur over the next five years, ending in December 2016.

Project Locations:

Mariposa and Tuolumne, and Madera County

Mitigations:

- No mitigations identified.

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):

E.2 Restoration of noncontroversial native species into suitable habitats within their historic range and elimination of exotic species.

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.

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

6/19/12
Date

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 05/31/2012

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 05/31/2012

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: 2012-005 Wilderness Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Reintroduction and Trout Eradication Project
PEPC Project #: 40883
Project Type: Implementation Plan (IMPL)
Project Location:
 County, State: Mariposa/Tuolumne/Madera, California
Project Leader: Heather McKenny

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

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.	No				
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				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	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
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Archeological resources	No				
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				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy	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
resources					
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		
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		No		

11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
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		
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		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? No
- 1.A. 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? No
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? No
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
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
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
Heather McKenny	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Acting Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
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>6/13/12</u>
<u>//Sue Clark//</u> Acting Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>6/19/12</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>6/19/12</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don L. Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>6/19/12</u>

/

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 05/31/2012

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: May 31, 2012

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2012-005 Wilderness Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Reintroduction and Trout Eradication
PEPC Project Number: 40883
Project Type: Implementation Plan (IMPL)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa/Tuolumne/Madera, California
Project Leader: Heather McKenny

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)?	Yes			The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog is a candidate for federal and State of California listing.
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?		No		
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		
Has a National Register form been completed?			N/A	
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?		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
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?			N/A	
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	Yes			See site map for all the lakes and meadows associated with this project.
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		



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 05/31/2012

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2012-005 Wilderness Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Reintroduction and Trout Eradication Project

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 05/31/2012

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 40883

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

☐ Yes

Source or reference:

Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact

☒ cultural deposits.)

4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):** None

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] Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 06/13/2012

Comments: Consultation will be ongoing for this project - any tribal comments/questions received will be addressed by the project manager.

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: Consultation is ongoing for this project. Any tribal comments/questions will be addressed by the project manager.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Laura Kirn

Date: 03/30/2012

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)]

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 03/08/2012

Comments: None.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance ☐

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

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: None.

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

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☒ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect

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: _____

☐ 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//

Kimball Koch

Date: 6/14/12

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.

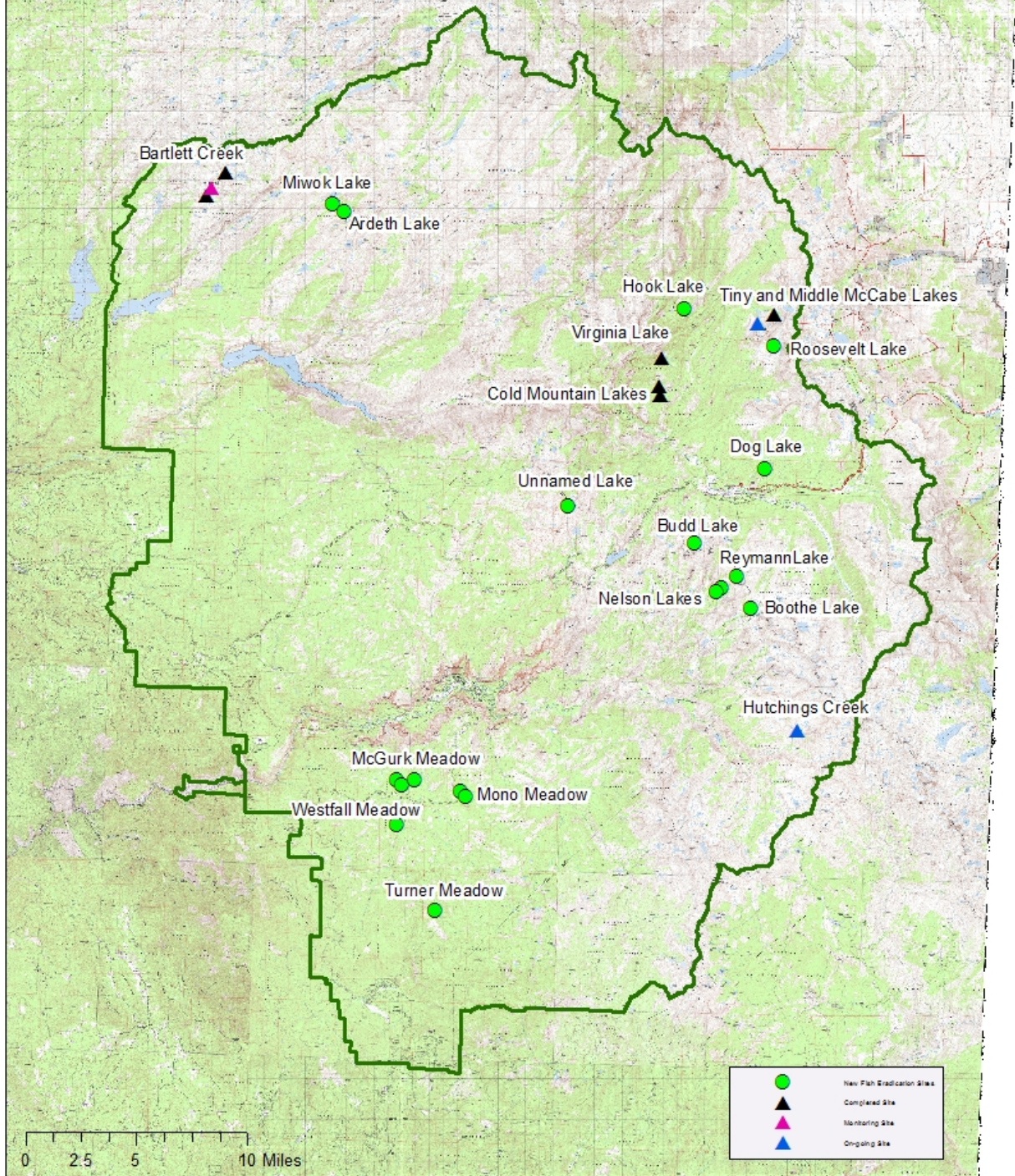
Superintendent: //Don L. Neubacher//

Don L. Neubacher

Date: 6/19/12

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High Priority Fish Eradication Sites for Conservation of the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog



2012-005 Wilderness Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Translocation and Trout Eradication Project – Categorical Exclusion and Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis approved by the Superintendent on 5/31/2012 – Addendum 3

March 4, 2015

This addendum modifies the translocation actions included in the approved Categorical Exclusion and Minimum Requirements Analysis as follows: we will augment three existing translocation sites (Miller Lake and two South Lyell Lakes) included in the original project and January 8, 2013 addendum. The modification maintains the same translocation sites from previous or initial translocation sites and decreases the number of adult frogs being moved from 50 to 40 for all proposed translocations (20 frogs to Miller; 20 frogs to 10 each of two sites at South Lyell Lakes).

All collected frogs will be PIT tagged, swabbed, weighed, and measured. Twenty frogs will be translocated from the Conness Pond source site (72996; UTME 294024, UTMN 4205159) to Miller Lake (UTME 287644, UTMN 4207517). As with previous translocations from Conness Pond to Miller Lake, a helicopter has been deemed the minimum tool necessary because of the long transport time if the frogs were moved on foot (~6 hours) would cause undue stress on the frogs and could result in frog mortality. Thus we are requesting two additional helicopter landings (one at Conness Pond and one at Miller Lake) in wilderness and one additional flight over wildernesses with an estimated 60 minutes of flight time. These activities would occur during a week day in late June or early July 2015 with (July 7th currently the preferred date). For the South Lyell translocations, 20 adult frogs will be collected from the adjacent Hutchings Basin in mid-July (70567; UTME 297226, UTMN 4177889) and then transported on foot to the South Lyell lakes (10 frogs to 70413 and 10 frogs to 70279). Due to the short distance between the Hutchings and South Lyell Basins (~1 hour walking time), transporting frogs by on foot is feasible and deemed the minimum tool necessary based on previous experience will not cause any negative effects on frogs.

These three translocations have two primary objectives: 1) to increase the number of viable populations; and 2) to refine the methodology used for translocating Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs with the goal of improving our rate of success. Previous translocations of Bd+ adults has resulted in successful establishment, so there is a high level of certainty that these translocations would result in further establishment of new breeding populations at these sites.

This additional translocation using frogs removed from the Conness Pond source or Hutchings Basin population is not expected to negatively impact these populations and there is evidence from the Conness Pond population that frogs may be benefitting from less competition by the removal of adults for use in translocations in the past. For example, the removal of 80 adult frogs from the Conness Pond population in 2013 resulted in higher body condition in remaining adults, suggesting that this population is controlled by density dependence. Furthermore, previous removal of approximately 20% of the adult frogs from this source population resulted in a large pulse of recruitment in subsequent years that compensated for the removals.

EFFECTS OF PROJECT MODIFICATION ON WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Untrammeled

The adverse effect to the untrammeled quality of wilderness character would be increased by this action.

Natural

The long-term beneficial effects to the natural quality of wilderness character would increase as a result of potentially establishing a breeding population at Miller Lake and two South Lyell Lakes while increasing our knowledge regarding the influence of site characteristics on translocation success. Decreasing the number of adults removed from these source populations by 10 has the potential to decrease the short-term adverse effects to these populations, and data from 2013 translocations suggests that negative effects on this source population are highly unlikely. The removal of 80 adult frogs from the Conness Pond population in 2013 resulted in higher body condition in remaining adults, suggesting that this population experiences stress when the frog numbers are high. In order to protect the health of the source population, we will remove no more than 10% of the adults from this population. Based on results from previous translocations in Yosemite, the source population should rebound quickly; previous removal of approximately 20% of the adult frogs from a source population resulted in a large pulse of recruitment in subsequent years that compensated for the removals.

Undeveloped

The modifications to this project increase the adverse effects to the undeveloped qualities of wilderness character. There would be one additional helicopter flight, two additional wilderness landings and 60 additional minutes of flight time over wilderness.

Experiential

The modifications to this project increase the adverse effects to opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation components of wilderness character at one additional site for three years (2015-2017). Two crew members would revisit the translocated population every 7-10 days in August and September, 2015 and every 30 days in June through September 2016 and 2017. Crews would use PIT tags (small “microchips” under the skin) to monitor frogs in 2015 and subsequent years. The project modifications also have long-term beneficial effects to the experiential quality of wilderness character resulting from the potential establishment of one new Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog population.

Summary

The modifications to this project cause slight increases in the adverse effects on wilderness character, but they result in potentially substantial long-term benefits (although, there is uncertainty as to the success of these translocations, so the overall level of effect is also uncertain). The long-term beneficial effects to the natural and experiential qualities of wilderness character resulting from our efforts to keep the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog from going extinct outweigh the adverse effects to the untrammeled quality and the adverse effects to the experiential and undeveloped qualities of wilderness character