



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:** Kevin M. Keheley, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2015-010 Yosemite Valley Public Use Area Accessibility (57727)

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

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- There 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:

- Please avoid driving or parking the bobcat in areas to the north and north east of the amphitheater at Lower Pines due to the proximity of sensitive cultural resources. If inadvertent discoveries are made during the installation of handrails at Lower Pines, please stop work and contact Compliance Archaeologist Sara Dolan.
- Please coordinate construction timing and schedule for Lower Pines project with the Valley Campgrounds and Interpretation programs.
- Consult with Accessibility Coordinator, Randy Fong, with more detailed plans to better confirm design meets accessibility standards.

**Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:** None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 57727.

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

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

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2015-010 Yosemite Valley Public Use Area Accessibility

**PEPC Project Number:** 57727

### Project Description:

This project will improve accessibility in three different public use areas in Yosemite Valley. The campsite work will be consistent with the campsite accessibility upgrades that have been done throughout the park.

- Yellow Pines Group Campground: decomposed granite will be utilized to bring the parking, paths to the restroom and campsite surface up to ADA/ABBA compliant standards. The decomposed granite will be used as fill in order to avoid ground disturbance. The site will be delineated with small logs and furnished with compliant tables, grills and bear lockers.
- Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater Path: this path is well established and needs few improvements. Work will consist of adding some decomposed granite fill to the final 30 feet of the approach to make it accessible.
- Happy Isles Nature Center Existing Path: accessible parking to the main path to the Nature Center. This is a paved path approximately 30 feet long that needs repair to the asphalt surface to make it accessible.

### Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

### Mitigations:

- Please avoid driving and/or parking the bobcat in areas to the north and north east of the amphitheater at Lower Pines due to the proximity of sensitive cultural resources. If inadvertent discoveries are made during the installation of handrails at Lower Pines, please stop work and contact Compliance Archaeologist Sara Dolan.
- Please coordinate construction timing and schedule for Lower Pines project with the Valley Campgrounds and Interpretation programs.
- Consult with Accessibility Coordinator, Randy Fong, with more detailed plans to better confirm design meets accessibility standards.

**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.19 Construction or rehabilitation in previously disturbed or developed areas, required to meet health or safety regulations, or to meet requirements for making facilities accessible to the handicapped.

**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.**

**Superintendent:** // Don L. Neubacher // **Date:** 7/30/2015

Don L. Neubacher

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# ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

## DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 06/11/2015

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:** 2015-010 Yosemite Valley Public Use Area Accessibility  
**PEPC Project Number:** 57727  
**Project Type:** Reconstruction (REC)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California **District:** Valley  
**Project Leader:** Kevin Keheley

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				Fill will be used to level terrain.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Temporary use of a piece of equipment to level the terrain.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Minimal construction equipment noises during the project.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or	No				

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
estuarine resources					
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				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience,		Negligible			The visitor experience will be enhanced by upgrading the accessible paths.

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
aesthetic resources					
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Yosemite Valley Historic District
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 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	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
communities, etc.					
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 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		No		



<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
risks?				
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		No		

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				

**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? Yes
- 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? 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><b>Interdisciplinary Team</b></u>	<u><b>Field of Expertise</b></u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Jeff Hilliard	Chief of Administration Management
Ron Borne	Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Kevin Killian	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Kevin Keheley	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist





## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: July 6, 2015

### PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2015-010 Yosemite Valley Public Use Area Accessibility  
**PEPC Project Number:** 57727  
**Project Type:** Reconstruction (REC)  
**Project Location:**  
     **County, State:** Mariposa, California   **District:** Valley  
**Project Leader:** Kevin Keheley

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
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		
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			The Happy Isles location will require eight 12 inch deep holes that are 12 inches in diameter. All other locations fill will be used to level terrain.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		No		
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				

Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Merced River
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?	Yes			
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		
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** 2015-010 Yosemite Valley Public Use Area Accessibility  
**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 06/11/2015 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038  
**PEPC Project Number:** 57727

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**  
Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District

### 3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?

No  
 Yes

Source or reference:

### 4. Potentially Affected Resources:

**Archeological resources affected:**  
**Name and numbers:** Yosemite Valley Archeological District  
**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:**  
**Name and numbes:** Yosemite Valley Historic District  
**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

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

- Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- Replace historic features/elements in kind
- Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
- Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
- Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
- Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

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:

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Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 05/20/2015

Comments: The north end of the pathway at Lower Pines is adjacent to sensitive cultural resources.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Potential to Cause Effect  No Historic Properties Affected  No

Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Please avoid driving/parking the bobcat in areas to the north and north east of the amphitheater at Lower Pines due to the proximity of sensitive cultural resources. If inadvertent discoveries are made during the installation of handrails at Lower Pines please stop work and contact Compliance Archaeologist Sara Dolan.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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Historical Architect

Name: Charles Tonetti

Date: 04/23/2015

Comments: No historic structures are impacted by the work.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Potential to Cause Effect  No Historic Properties Affected  No

Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kevin McCardle

Date: 05/07/2015

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Potential to Cause Effect  No Historic Properties Affected  No

Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Assessment of Effect Form - Yosemite Valley Public Use Area Accessibility - PEPC ID: 57727

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

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### C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Assessment of Effect:

- No Potential to Cause Effects
- 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.

1999 Programmatic Agreement as amended in 2014.

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

G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

H. Memo to ACHP



SHPO/THPO Notes:

**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.)**

- Assessment of Effect - Please avoid driving/parking the bobcat in areas to the north and north east of the amphitheater at Lower Pines due to the proximity of sensitive cultural resources. If inadvertent discoveries are made installation of handrails at Lower Pines please stop work and contact Compliance Archaeologist Sara Dolan.

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Historic Preservation Officer:**

Kimball  
Koch

// Kimball Koch //

**Date:** 7/20/2015

**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:** 7/30/2015

Don L. Neubacher

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Yosemite National Park.*