



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617 (YOSE)

Memorandum

To: Jim Allen, Project Manager
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: 2006-018 Crane Flat Water Pipe Emergency Repair

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (3) – *Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds, and trails.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. This project clearance is valid providing that you adhere to the conditions stipulated under “Project Mitigations and Conditions,” below, and in the attached *Environmental Screening Form, Cultural Resource Effects Assessment Form (XXX; when attached), and Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis* (when attached) when implementing this project.

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

1. Do not take down any snags to accomplish project work.
2. Do not drive across meadow to accomplish project work.

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 or conditions in DO12 3.5 or 3.6 apply and the action is fully described in DO12, Section 3.4.

//Bill Delaney//
for Michael J. Tollefson

12/22/05
Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

Enclosure (2)

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

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP
 Project Number: 14227
 Project Type: Facility Maintenance (FM)
 Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: Mather Other: Crane Flat
 Project Originator/Coordinator: Jim Allen
 Project Title: 2006-018 Crane Flat Water Pipe Leak Emergency Repair

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The only water line feeding the Crane Flat gas station has developed a severe leak that is increasing pumping time to keep the storage tank from loosing water. The leak is getting progressively worse. This work would include bringing digging equipment on site to expose the pipe, possibly sandbagging and portable water pumping equipment to drain the saturated soil in the area of the leak while effecting the repair.

| Project Background Information | Yes | No | N/A | Explanation/Notes |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If no, explain. | | X | | |
| 2a. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.) | | X | | |
| 2b. Is the project consistent with that plan? | | | X | |
| 2c. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current? | | | X | |
| 3a. Are there any interested or affected parties? | | X | | |
| 3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them? | | | | |
| 4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes? | | X | | |
| 4b. Has consultation been completed? | | | | |

| Attached Project Information (becomes part of CE) | Yes | No | N/A | Explanation/Notes |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map) | X | | | Vicinity Map showing approximate site |
| 2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction) | | | | |
| 3. Site Plans | | | | |
| 4. Photographs | X | | | Site of leak; several views |
| 5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain) | | | | |
| 6. Other (Explain) | | | | |

C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS

| Are any impacts possible on the following resources? | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|--|-----|----|-----|--|
| 1. Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc | X | | | Negligible: digging to expose existing, leaking water pipe |
| 2. From geohazards | | X | | |
| 3. Air quality | | X | | |
| 4. Soundscapes | X | | | Temporary, minor: noise from digging equipment and water pump during repair work |
| 5. Water quality or quantity | X | | | Leak repair will protect potable water supply and reduce groudwater pumping. |
| 6. Stream flow characteristics | | X | | |
| 7. Marine or estuarine resources | | | X | |
| 8. Floodplains or wetlands | X | | | Mitigated: See condition, below. |
| 9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use | | X | | |
| 10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine | | X | | |
| 11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat | X | | | Mitigated: See condition, below. |
| 12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites | | | X | Yosemite is a World Heritage site; no historic cultural resources will be adversely affected by this action. |
| 13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat | | X | | |
| 14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat | | X | | |
| 15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal) | | X | | |
| 16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc. | | X | | |
| 17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources | | X | | |
| 18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources | | X | | |
| 19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure | | X | | |
| 20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc. | | X | | |
| 21. Energy resources | | X | | |
| 22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies | | X | | |
| 23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential | X | | | Leak repair will conserve groundwater resources. |
| 24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc. | | X | | |
| 25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity | | X | | |
| 26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)? | | X | | |
| Comments, Mitigations and Conditions: | | | | |
| 1. Do not take down any snags to accomplish project work. | | | | |
| 2. Do not drive across meadow to accomplish project work. | | | | |

) **D. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

| If implemented, would the proposed action: | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|-----|----|-----|--------------------------------|
| A. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety? | | X | | |
| B. Have adverse effects on such unique 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; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks? | | X | | |
| C. Have highly controversial environmental effects? | | X | | |
| D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? | | X | | |
| E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? | | X | | |
| F. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? | | X | | |
| G. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? | | X | | |
| H. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species? | | X | | |
| I. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act? | | X | | |
| J. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? | | X | | |
| K. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))? | | X | | |
| L. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)? | | X | | |
| M. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? | | X | | |
| N. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)? | | X | | |
| O. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)? | | X | | |

) **D. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

| If implemented, would the proposed action: | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| P. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate? | | X | | |
| Q. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe? | | X | | |
| R. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects? | | X | | |
| S. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values? | | X | | |
| Comments, Mitigations and Conditions: | | | | |
| 1. | | | | |

E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST

| Within the area of potential effect, are there: | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|---|
| 1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)? | X | | | Great grey owl; see condition, below. |
| 2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)? | | X | | |
| 3. Park rare plants or vegetation? | | X | | |
| 4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above? | X | | | Great grey owl habitat; see condition, below. |
| If "yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-Status Species Checklist must be completed and attached. | | | | |
| Comments, Mitigations and Conditions: | | | | |
| 1. Do not take down any snags to accomplish project. | | | | |

F. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST

| Within the area of potential effect: | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Will there be ground disturbance? | X | | | "No Effect;" See attached XXX. |
| 2. Are there any archeological sites? | | X | | |
| 3. Are there any traditional cultural resources? | | X | | |
| 4. Is the project within the boundary of an archeological or historic district? | | X | | |
| 5a. Is there a National Historic Landmark? | | X | | |
| 5b. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ? | | X | | |
| 5c. Is there a historic property with a DOE and concurrence by the SHPO or a completed National Register form? | | X | | |
| 5d. Is there a cultural property requiring review under NHPA, Section 110? | | X | | |
| 6. Would there be alteration of a structure or cultural landscape covered by 5a-d, above? | | X | | |
| If "yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached. | | | | |
| Mitigations and Conditions: | | | | |
| 1. | | | | |

G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST

| Is the proposed project: | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|--|-----|----|-----|--|
| 1. Within designated Wilderness? | X | | | May be just within Wilderness boundary, which is 100 feet from the north edge of the Gas Station parking lot; this work is covered by the emergency exception, per Laurel Boyers, park Wilderness Manager (phone conversation 12/12/05). |
| 2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition? | | X | | |
| If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached. | | | | |
| Mitigations and Conditions: | | | | |
| 1. | | | | |

H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST

| Does the proposed project: | Yes | No | N/A | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|---|-----|----|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? If "yes", name the river(s) | | X | | |
| 2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river? | | | X | |
| 3. Potentially affect water quality of the area? | | | X | |
| 4. Remain consistent with its river segment classification? | | | X | |
| 5. Protect and enhance river ORVs? | | | X | |
| 6a. Fall within the River Protection Overlay? | | | X | |
| 6b. If "yes", is it consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay? | | | X | |
| 8. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning? | | | X | |
| 9a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River? | | X | | |
| 9b. If 9a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor? | | | X | |
| 9c. If 9a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values? | | | X | |
| If "yes" to questions 2, 9b, or 9c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached. | | | | |
| Mitigations and Conditions: | | | | |
| 1. | | | | |

I. NEPA Analysis and Approval Conditions

When implemented as detailed in the project description and following all Project Mitigations and Conditions listed below, this project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

DO12 3.4 C (3) Routine maintenance and repairs to non-historic structures, facilities, utilities, grounds, and trails.

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

1. **Do not take down any snags to accomplish project work.**
2. **Do not drive across meadow to accomplish project work.**

This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

//GWColliver// 12/19/05
Compliance Specialist **Date**

//Mark A Butler// 12/21/05
Compliance Program Manager **Date**

//Bill Delaney// 12/22/05
Chief, Project Management **Date**

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

Attachment A



Map 1 Vicinity - Crane Flat Gas Station

Attachment B



Photo 1 View from Service Station Parking Lot to Site of Leak



Photo 2 Site of the Leak



Photo 3 The Leak, before Repair

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Project Title & ID:** 2006-018 Crane Flat Water Pipe Leak Emergency Repair (14227)
2. **Project Manager:** Jim Allen
3. **Project Description:** The only water line feeding the Crane Flat gas station has developed a severe leak that is increasing pumping time to keep the storage tank from loosing water. The leak is getting progressively worse. This work would include bringing digging equipment on site to expose the pipe, possibly sandbagging and portable water pumping equipment to drain the saturated soil in the area of the leak while effecting the repair.
4. **Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:** This project is located in an upland forest approximately 125 feet north of the Crane Flat Gas Station at the site of the old winter drain valve, at which point the pipe has sprung a very bad leak.

| 5. Attached Sensitive* Information | Yes | No | Explanation/Source/Notes |
|---|------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| a. Maps | X | | CR GIS Map |
| b. Drawings | | X | |
| c. Site Plans | | X | |
| d. Photographs | | X | |
| e. Sample | | X | |
| f. List of Materials | | X | |
| g. Other (Explain) | | X | |

* Sensitive documents not for duplication or distribution beyond park management, subject matter experts, and the project statutory compliance file.

B. DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

| | Yes | No | N/A | Explanation/Notes |
|---|-----|----|-----|--|
| 1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify cultural resources? If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s). | X | | | YOSE 1974D |
| a. Would the proposed action affect a known cultural resource? | | X | | No recorded resource in previously disturbed project area. |

| 2. List all Cultural Resources in the Area of Potential Effect: | Affected? | | Explanation/Note |
|--|-----------|----|-------------------------------|
| | Yes | No | |
| a. Crane Flat Archaeological District | | X | No resources in project area. |

| 3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance: | Affected? | | Explanation/Note |
|--|-----------|----|--|
| | Yes | No | |
| a. Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Landscape | | X | Avoid tire treading in meadow in consideration of vegetation and wildlife. |

| 4. The proposed action will: | Yes | No | N/A | Explanation/Note |
|---|-----|----|-----|------------------|
| • Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure | | X | | |
| • Replace historic features/elements in kind | | X | | |
| • Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure | | X | | |
| • Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain) | | X | | |
| • Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape | | X | | |
| • Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain | | X | | |
| • Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain | | X | | |
| • Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources | | X | | |
| • Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures) | | X | | |
| • Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources | | X | | |
| • Other | | | | |

5. Describe any measures that are incorporated as part of this project that will be taken to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of prehistoric or historic fabric, setting, integrity, or data:

Checklist Preparer: Jeannette Simons

Date: 12/19/05

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

C. SPECIALIST SECTION

Specialists: Your comments here (or attached) show that you have reviewed this proposal for conformity with requirements of *National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106*; with the *1995 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement* (if applicable); with applicable parts of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; with the *NPS Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; and have given your best professional advice about this project and the issues relevant to the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties and further consultation needs.

Archeologist Name: **Laura Kirn** Date:
12/13/2005

Comments: No documented sites in the project area. See email dated 12/13/2005 for Laura Kirn.

Ground Disturbance Involved Yes: **X** No:

Assessment of Effect: **No effect.**

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Archeologist: _____

Cultural Anthropologist Name: Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: _____

Curator Name: Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Curator: _____

Historian Name: Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Historian: _____

Historic Architect Name: Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Historic Architect: _____

Historic Landscape Architect Name: Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: _____

Preservation Specialist

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Preservation Specialist: _____

Native American Liaison

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:
12/19/2005

Comments: **Avoid tire treads in meadow in consideration of vegetation and wildlife, per Branch Chief, Wildlife Management, Steve Thompson**

Assessment of Effect: No effect.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of Native American Liaison: //signed original on file//

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

Signature of _____: _____

**D. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION AND PARK 106
COORDINATOR REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Review by specialists:** The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations in Section C, above.

The foregoing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS management policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.

Reviewed and Accepted by:

Signature: //Paul Chattey// **Date:** 12/19/05
for Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

- 2. Assessment of Effects: No effect**

- 3. Compliance Requirements:** The following is the park's assessment of Section 106 process needs and requirements for this undertaking.

Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Consultation under 36 CFR is needed subsequent to the preparation of this form and its review by appropriate cultural resource management advisors.

Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement.

Plan-Related Undertaking

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement and 36 CFR Part 800.

Undertaking Related to Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under a document such as a statewide agreement written in accordance with 37 CFR Part 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Agreement:

Flood-Recovery Related Undertaking

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the letter-based agreement between the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Council for Historic Preservation for "Highwater 97" flood repair and recovery

Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the park's 1999 programmatic agreement for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance; the undertaking meets the stipulations identified in Article VII.C.2.

4. Project Stipulations and Conditions

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effects above is consistent with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect or to mitigate potential adverse effects:

1. Avoid tire treads in meadow in consideration of vegetation and wildlife, per Branch Chief, Wildlife Management, Steve Thompson

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //signed original on file Date: 12/19/05

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the recommendations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.

Signature of Superintendent: //Bill Delaney (Acting)

Date: 12/22/05

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