



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: Ron Borne, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite, National Park

Subject: 2016-031 NEPA and NHPA Clearance: Upper River Temporary Parking (67080)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action 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:

- Archeological monitoring is required during tree felling
- Install gravel at the entrance if necessary, but no gravel is to be used in the rest of the lot
- No grading - Do not disturb piles of soil from the Emergency Services Complex project
- Avoid parking under the dripline of California black oak trees
- Contact USADig
- Restore the area to natural conditions after November 18, 2016. Lot to be closed at this time.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 67080.

// Don L. Neubacher //

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2016-031 Upper River Temporary Parking

PEPC Project Number: 67080

Description of Action (Project Description):

Additional parking is required in Yosemite Valley for day-use visitors while the park completes parking and road improvements in 2016. Yosemite will open a portion of the Upper River area for parking between mid-September and November 18, 2016. Upper River was once the site of a campground, which the park removed after repeated flood damage. The site was also used as an informal staging area.

The park will allow parking only in areas of dried herbaceous vegetation, outside the drip-line of California black oak trees and away from young and mature conifers. Park crews will mark parking boundaries with construction fencing. About 15 dead hazard trees and one live conifer (<24" dbh) require removal. There will be no grading and the park will restore the site to natural conditions after November 18, 2016.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigation(s):

- Archeological monitoring is required during tree felling
- Install gravel at the entrance if necessary, but no gravel is to be used in the rest of the lot
- No grading - Do not disturb piles of soil from the Emergency Services Complex project
- Avoid parking under the dripline of California black oak trees
- Contact USADig
- Restore the area to natural conditions after November 18, 2016. Lot to be closed at this time.

CE Citation: C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed areas.

Explanation:

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Superintendent: // Don L. Neubacher //

Date: 8/26/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
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 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, 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 (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	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	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2016-031 Upper River Temporary Parking

PEPC Project Number: 67080

Project Type:

Other Maintenance Activities (MNT)

Project Location:

County, State:

Mariposa, California

Project Leader:

Ron Borne

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	Potential	There will be short term construction related impacts to air quality.
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	Archeological monitoring required during tree felling activities.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	None	
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	None	
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	Potential	Project is within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor.
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>// Kristin Anderson //</u> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	<u>8/26/2016</u>
<u>// Kimball Koch for Madelyn Ruffner //</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>8/26/2016</u>
<u>//Kimball Koch for Randy Fong //</u>	<u>8/26/2016</u>

Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	
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Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/26/2016</u>

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ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: 2016-031 Upper River Temporary Parking

Prepared by: Kimball Koch **Date Prepared:** 08/25/2016 **Telephone:** 209.379.1364

PEPC Project Number: 67080

Locations: Mariposa County, CA

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: Pedestrian survey

4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

Archeological Resources Notes: Area is the site of a former campground and staging area.

Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes: None have been identified to date and the tribes are being notified via September Spreadsheet.

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

☐ Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

☐ 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:

☒ 106 Advisor

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 08/26/2016

Comments: Based on discussions with CRM staff, no adverse effects were identified.

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☒ Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 08/26/2016

Comments: Tribes are being notified of the proposed action.

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☒ Archeologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 08/26/2016

Comments: Archeologist will be available for monitoring during tree root removal. No grading of surface soils.

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:

☒ Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 08/26/2016

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:

[X] Historical Architect
Name: Scott Carpenter
Date: 08/26/2016

Comments: Comments per Cooper Norman, YOSE Historical Architect (name not in PEPC yet)

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:

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: Kimball Koch
Date: 08/26/2016

Comments: Project involves reuse of previously disturbed campground, No fill or paving added. Pedestrian survey identified one fruit tree which should be protected until its history can be determined.

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor

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

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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:

[X] 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 Parkwide PA as amended in 2016

☐ 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.

Archeological monitoring is required during tree removal. Do not disturb piles of "ESC" soil

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:

Historic Preservation Officer

Kimball Koch // Kimball Koch // **Date:** 8/26/2016

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:** 8/26/2016
Don L. Neubacher

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