



# 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:** Chad Andrews, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-017 Wawona Chilnualna Falls Trailhead Temporary Parking Delineation (73380)

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:

- Do not drag logs used for delineating parking area.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 73380.

//Plamer L. Jenkins//  
Palmer L. Jenkins

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.*



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2017-017 Wawona Chilnualna Falls Trailhead Temporary Parking Delineation

**PEPC Project Number:** 73380

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

The visitation and parking demands at the Chilnualna Falls Trailhead has grown substantially in the last few years. Natural obstacles and slope limit the possibility of expanding the current parking area. Vehicles parking outside of the delineated parking area are threatening resources and causing traffic and pedestrian hazards by obstructing the roadway. Despite attempts by Wawona District Visitor Protection to better delineate the current parking area, visitors have continued to expand the original parking footprint.

Temporarily allowing parking to occur alongside the road will help alleviate this problem and allow the park to access needs and options for the future adjacent to the existing parking that would serve this purpose and provide space for roughly 10-15 vehicles to park. The park has identified an area on park land to be used for temporary parking. The park will assess the need for long-term options and effects of providing this additional parking after the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

The proposed area is outside of a currently identified archaeological area. Parking would occur in a straight-in configuration, delineated with large logs (timbers already cut and on the ground from tree-thinning), preventing further encroachment into the vegetation. Delineation will be achieved by machinery operated by park personnel to move the timbers into place. No paving will occur. Local wood chips will be used to prevent erosion and rutting. The project will not require the removal of any vegetation.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

- Do not drag logs used for delineating parking area.

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

**CE Justification:**

**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:** //Palmer L. Jenkins//

Palmer L. Jenkins

**Date:** 7/9/17

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**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</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	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> 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	
<b>H.</b> 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	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> 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	
<b>L.</b> 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:** 2017-017 Wawona Chilnualna Falls Trailhead Temporary Parking Delineation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 73380  
**Project Type:** Resource Protection (PROT)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa, California  
**Project Leader:** Chad Andrews

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	Potential	Better delineated parking prevents potential damage to vegetation at popular trailhead.
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Museum Collections	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	None	
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Socioeconomic	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	None	
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	Potential	Provides more clearly delineated parking to visitors.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	Erosion and rutting will be minimized with wood chips.
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Alan Kunz//</u> Compliance Specialist – Alan Kunz	<u>7/6/17</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>7/7/17</u>
<u>//Ron Gaunt//</u> Acting Chief, Project Management – Ron Gaunt	<u>7/7/17</u>

**Approved:**

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//Palmer L. Jenkins//</u> Palmer L. Jenkins	<u>7/9/17</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:** 2017-017 Wawona Chilnualna Falls Trailhead Temporary Parking Delineation

**Prepared by:** Alan Kunz    **Date Prepared:** 06/28/2017    **Telephone:** 209-379-1303

**PEPC Project Number:** 73380

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

Proposed parking area and adjacent road.

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

☐ No  
☐ Yes  
☒ X

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

**Archeological Resources Affected:**

**Name and number(s):** Wawona Archeological District    **LCS**

**NR status:** 1 – Listed in Register and documented

**Archeological Resources Notes:** There are sensitive cultural resources nearby. The proposed project has no ground disturbance and will not affect those resources.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** There are no known ethnographic resources present.

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)  
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or  
☐ No cultural landscape  
☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible  
☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible  
☐ No 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 ] 106 Advisor  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 06/28/2017  
*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect \_\_\_\_\_No Historic Properties Affected      X   No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

---

[ X ] Anthropologist  
Name: Eirik Thorsgard  
Date: 06/26/2017  
Comments: The project area is in close proximity to sensitive cultural resources, however there are no ground disturbing actions and no identified ethnographic resources are within the project area.  
*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect \_\_\_\_\_No Historic Properties Affected      X   No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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[ X ] Archeologist  
Name: Sara Dolan  
Date: 06/26/2017  
Comments: The project area is in close proximity to sensitive cultural resources, however there are no ground disturbing actions and no archeological concerns. A layer of wood chips will be placed on the ground surface to protect against rutting and erosion.  
*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ X ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect \_\_\_\_\_No Historic Properties Affected      X   No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Do not drag logs used for delineating parking area.

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[ X ] Historian  
Name: Scott Carpenter  
Date: 06/28/2017  
*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [   ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_\_\_No Potential to Cause Effect      X   No Historic Properties Affected    \_\_\_\_\_No  
Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Adverse Effect    \_\_\_\_\_Streamlined Review  
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 06/28/2017  
Comments: no historic resources (built environment) affected



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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**No Reviews From:** Curator, Historical Architect, Other Advisor

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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.)

3. Repair/Resurfacing/Removal of Existing, Roads, Trails and Parking Areas.

[ ☐ ] 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.

[ ☐ ] E. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

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.)

**Do not drag logs used for delineating parking area.**

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

*Historic Preservation Officer*

Kimball Koch    //Kimball Koch//                      **Date:**    7/5/17

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

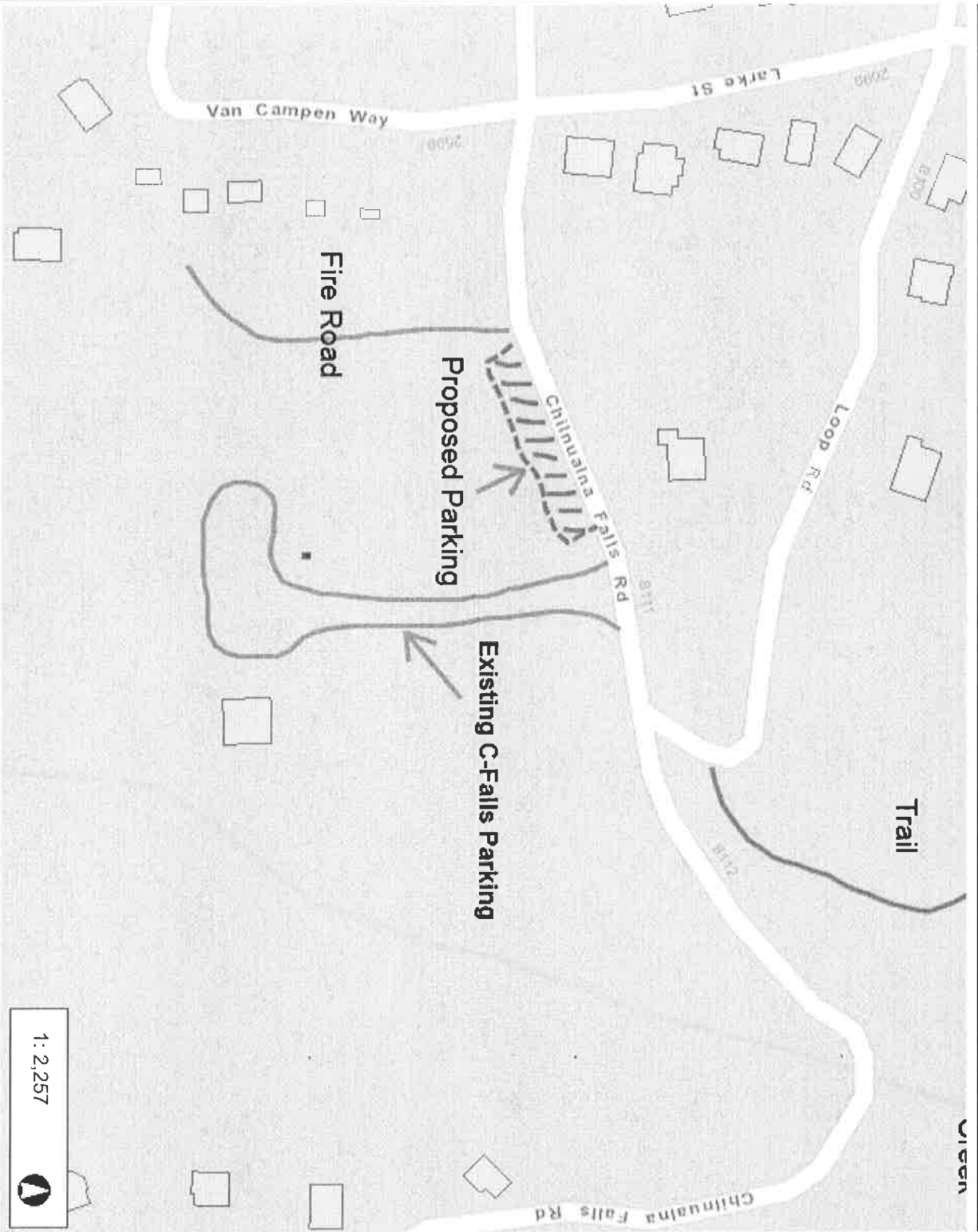
The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

**Superintendent:**    //Palmer L. Jenkins//                      **Date:** 7/9/17  
Palmer L. Jenkins

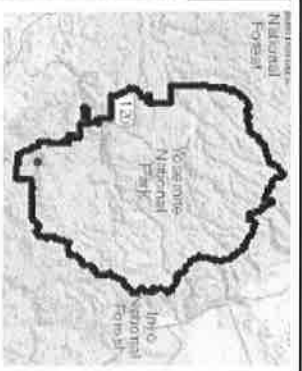
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# Yosemite National Park



1: 2,257



## Legend

- Buildings**
  - <all other values>
  - Housing
  - Management Activities and Service
  - Utilities
  - Visitor Based Activities and Service
- Minor Landmarks

## Notes

0.1  
0  
0.04  
0.1 Miles

WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere  
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