



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: Scott Carpenter, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-037 Programmatic CE: Archeological Investigations (75203)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed activity and completed an impact analysis and documentation, and 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 activity, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. For the proposed activities to be within compliance requirements during implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- This is a programmatic activity that is not covered under the nationwide Programmatic Agreement and has no effect to historic properties. Individual projects will be assessed by the park's cultural resources management team.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 75203.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

//Palmer L. Jenkins//

Palmer L. Jenkins (Acting Superintendent)

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.*



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2017-037 Programmatic CE: Archeological Investigations

PEPC Project Number: 75203

Project Description:

This Categorical Exclusion (CE) will serve as a programmatic record for archeological investigations including surface survey, site documentation, and small-scale subsurface test excavations. The activities covered by this programmatic CE are those intended to obtain information regarding archeological resources for Section 110 (NHPA), research, or to inform Section 106 compliance. Investigations are often necessary to inform project scoping, as well as compliance and design efforts. These investigations will inform the design and construction of new or improved infrastructure (structures, facilities, utilities, and roads), ecological restoration, and other ground-disturbing actions, which will undergo separate compliance determinations and approvals independent of this programmatic CE.

Project Locations:

Mariposa, Madera, and Tuolumne Counties

Mitigations:

- This is a programmatic activity that is not covered under the nationwide Programmatic Agreement and has no effect to historic properties. Individual projects will be assessed by the park's cultural resources management team.

CE Citation: E.1 Archeological surveys and permits involving only surface collection or small-scale test excavations.

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: 1/17/18

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

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: 2017-037 Programmatic CE: Archeological Investigations
PEPC Project Number: 75203
Project Type: Resource Management (RM)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, Madera, and Tuolumne Counties, California
 Madelyn Ruffner
Project Leader:

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	None	
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	These investigations will inform the design and construction of new or improved infrastructure (structures, facilities, utilities, roads), ecological restoration, and other ground-disturbing actions. The investigations are intended to provide information necessary for Section 110 (NHPA), research, or to inform Section 106 compliance and consultation.
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	Potential	This is a programmatic activity that is not covered under the nationwide Programmatic Agreement and has no effect to historic properties. Individual projects will be assessed by the park's cultural resources management team.
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	
Geological Geologic Features	None	
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	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Visitor Use and Experience		
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2017-037 Programmatic CE: Archeological Investigations

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 10/24/2017 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 75203

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, Madera, and Tuolumne

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

Parkwide; varies by project

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: Park-Wide permit; presence/absence of resources determined on a site by site basis.

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Varies by project

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Cultural Landscapes Notes: Varies by project

Ethnographic Resources Affected:

Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes: Varies by project

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

- No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
- Yes 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: 12/20/2017

Comments: This is a programmatic activity that is not covered under the nationwide Programmatic Agreement and has no effect to historic properties. Individual projects will be assessed by the park's cultural resources management team.

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: Standard 4-Step Process

Anthropologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 12/20/2017

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:

Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 12/15/2017

Comments: These investigations will inform the design and construction of new or improved infrastructure (structures, facilities, utilities, roads), ecological restoration, and other ground-disturbing actions. The

investigations are intended to provide information necessary for Section 110 (NHPA), research, or to inform Section 106 compliance and consultation.

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] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 12/20/2017

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: 12/20/2017

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: Standard 4-Step Process

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, 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:

[X] **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)**

Assessment of Effect Form – 2017-037 Programmatic CE: Archeological Investigations - PEPC ID: 75203

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.

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: This is a programmatic activity that is not covered under the nationwide PA and has no effect to historic properties. Individual projects will be assessed by the park's cultural resources management team.

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 - This is a programmatic activity that is not covered under the nationwide Programmatic Agreement and has no effect to historic properties. Individual projects will be assessed by the park's cultural resources management team.**

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Section 106 Coordinator:

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: 12/20/17

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.

Acting

Superintendent: //Palmer L. Jenkins//

Date: 1/17/18

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

Archeological Investigation Programmatic Categorical Exclusion

This Categorical Exclusion (CE) will serve as a programmatic record for archeological investigations including surface survey, site documentation, and small-scale subsurface test excavations. The activities covered by this programmatic CE are those intended to obtain information regarding archeological resources for Section 110 (NHPA), research, or to inform Section 106 compliance. Investigations are often necessary to inform project scoping, as well as compliance and design efforts. These investigations will inform the design and construction of new or improved infrastructure (structures, facilities, utilities, roads), ecological restoration, and other ground-disturbing actions, which will undergo separate compliance determinations and approvals independent of this programmatic CE. The following activities are covered by this programmatic CE. Activities not listed, but similar in scope and scale, may be covered with Compliance Office approval.

1) Actions related to archeological testing, as detailed in a project-specific research design or work plan developed in consultation with traditionally-associated American Indian tribes and groups and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), include the following:

- Systematic archeological survey of the site surface, and recording surface artifacts, features, and site boundaries
- Establishing datum points (should datum points be necessary in wilderness, the park's wilderness specialist will be consulted)
- Collecting a sample of surface artifacts
- Photographic documentation
- Recording location information
- Preparing site maps, feature maps, and sediment profiles
- At prehistoric sites, conducting small-scale excavations that do not exceed approximately 5 percent of the estimated site volume, employing an array of techniques such as augers, shovel probes, surface scrapes, and/or excavation units up to 1 x 2 m in size.
- At historical sites or sites with historical components, conducting excavations using similar techniques to those at prehistoric sites, but including techniques such as backhoe trenching and excavation of larger units to expose historical features
- Screening of sediments to recover artifacts and ecofacts
- Field documentation of artifacts left in place
- Collecting of sediment samples
- Preparing detailed records of excavations, included level records; auger, shovel probe, and surface scrape records; field specimen records, and daily notes
- Cataloging and analyzing recovered cultural material

-Preparing draft and final reports, with peer, SHPO, and tribal review, as appropriate

-Updating standard Yosemite Archeology Office databases

-Archiving recovered materials and project documentation in the Yosemite Museum

2) Actions related to field survey and archeological site recording:

-Repeated walking in a localized area while documenting a site

-Preparing site and feature maps, utilizing an array of equipment such as tape and compass, global positioning system, pacing, and/or range finder

-Use of pin flags and flagging tape

-Collecting diagnostic, at-risk artifacts, and/or other representative artifact samples

-Establishing datum points. Typically metal tree tags affixed to trees with a nail (should datum points be necessary in wilderness, the park's wilderness specialist will be consulted)

-Documenting cultural material, environmental variables, built environment, and major disturbances using standard Yosemite Archeology Office forms

-Photographic documentation

-Recording location information

-Cataloging and analyzing recovered cultural material

-Preparing draft and final reports, with peer, SHPO, and tribal review, as appropriate

-Updating standard Yosemite Archeology Office databases

-Archiving recovered materials and project documentation in the Yosemite Museum

Archeologists implementing activities covered by this programmatic CE must follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and mitigation measures for programmatic CEs to ensure that potential impacts are minimized and the appropriate documentation and reporting of activities occurs. Refer to the programmatic CE SOPs on Sharepoint under the Project Management/Environmental Planning and Compliance link for the most up-to-date version of the SOPs as they will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary as new mitigation measures and best practices are identified.

In addition to following the Programmatic CE SOPs and Mitigation Measures, the Project Manager must implement, in consultation with the park's subject-matter experts, mitigations specific to site investigation activities (see attached).