



# 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:** Athena Demetry, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2017-014 Ackerson Meadow Fence Installation (75867)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project and completed an impact analysis and 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 to historic properties.
- 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:

- No mitigations identified.

**Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:** None

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 75867.

*/Teri Austin for/*

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Michael T. Reynolds, 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.

Letter of Compliance Completion – 2017-014 Ackerson



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2017-014 Ackerson Meadow Fence Installation

**PEPC Project Number:** 75867

**Project Description:**

This project will install boundary fencing to protect the natural resources and habitats of the new 415-acre Ackerson Meadow addition from cattle grazing on adjacent United States Forest Service (USFS) lands. The project will:

- Procure and install up to approximately 1.5 miles (7,125 LF) of new 3-strand wildlife-friendly barbed wire fence.
- Inspect and repair approximately 1.5 miles (7,650 LF) of existing fence at Ackerson Meadow and up to 6 miles (31,680 LF) of existing fence north and south of Ackerson Meadow
- Remove hazard trees that threaten worker safety.
- Provide survey and staking of boundaries and fence lines.

To protect wildlife, the park would use a combination of two strands of smooth wire and one strand of barbed wire, for a total of three strands that would be attached to standard 6-foot metal T-posts. T-posts are set 16-inches deep and 10 feet apart. Post spacing may extend up to 20 feet apart to avoid sensitive archeological sites or other features. The lowest wire will be smooth and a minimum of 18 inches above ground level. The middle wire will be barbed and approximately 12 inches above the bottom wire. The top wire will be smooth in order to minimize risk to birds and other wildlife and will be installed 40-42 inches above ground level. Deviations up to 30 feet from property boundaries may be made in discussion with USFS to avoid archeological sites and sensitive natural resources. Visibility markers will be added to the top and bottom wire (smooth wire is less visible than barbed wire) to provide visibility to wildlife. Small wire gates will be added in strategic locations to allow cows that breach the fence to be removed without having to cut the fence. Turn-style gates may be added to prevent entry by cattle but allow public access through the fence in strategic locations.

Fence installation will be conducted by a contractor and licensed surveyor to locate all property corners and set fence posts in accordance with property boundaries. Where fence lines deviate from property boundaries, boundary markers will be installed on trees or carsonite posts (0.2 inches x 4 inches x 70 inches, driven 16 inches into ground). Materials, including T-posts, wire, and pre-fabricated bracing, will be transported along the fence alignment via off-road vehicle where conditions allow.

Shrubs and small trees less than 4 inches in diameter may be pruned or removed if they interfere with fence installation. Dead trees, of all sizes, that pose safety hazards to fence installation crews may be removed by cutting with chainsaws. Downed wood across fences to be repaired and across dirt access roads may be removed by cutting with chainsaws. Fence posts (T-posts) may be placed by hand or, if accessible, by vehicle mounted equipment. Fence wire may be attached to trees, in place of posts, if trees are on the surveyed alignment and would otherwise need to be removed; pieces of wood would be placed between the wire and the trunk of the tree to prevent girdling. Where existing wooden post fencing is no longer needed, the fence wire will be cut and wrapped around existing wood posts, however, T-posts, documented as less than 50 years old by the park archeologist will be removed. Modern T-post fencing replaced in 2014 after the Rim Fire will be completely removed where it is no longer needed.

**Project Locations:**

Tuolumne County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- No mitigations identified.

**CE Citation:** C.17 Construction of fencing enclosures or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.

**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:** /Teri Austin for/ **Date:** 06/21/18  
Michael T. Reynolds

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.

**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:** 2017-014 Ackerson Meadow Fence Installation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 75867  
**PMIS Number:** 238124  
**Project Type:** Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Tuolumne, California **Other:** Ackerson Meadow  
**Project Leader:** Athena Demetry

### 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	Potential	Any equipment will be cleaned prior to entering into the park. All aggregate will be acquired from a weed-free source.
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	Potential	Tribes and groups did not identify any concerns with the undertaking.
<b>Cultural</b> Museum	None	

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) – 2017-014 Ackerson Meadow Fence Installation - PEPC ID: 75867

Collections		
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	Per Cultural Resources Manager: the park is assuming eligibility of barn and wooden fencing for Section 106 review purposes. No historical architect review required because no historic buildings are affected by the project. No response was received from the SHPO by the end of thirty day review period. The park is assuming that the SHPO has no objection to the park's assessment of no adverse effect.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	Potential	Fences in areas in archeological sites will be adjusted in the field to avoid areas of significance within sites.
<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>Soundscares</b> Soundscares	None	
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	Potential	Fencing is compatible with historic ranching use.
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine	None	

<b>Resources</b>		
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b> Wetlands	None	
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	None	
<b>Wilderness</b> 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:** 2017-014 Ackerson Meadow Fence Installation

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec    **Date Prepared:** 05/08/2018    **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**PEPC Project Number:** 75867

**Locations:**

**County, State:** Tuolumne, CA

**Other:** Ackerson Meadow

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

The APE includes the fenced areas surrounding the 415 acres of Ackerson Meadow and portions of the forest. The APE includes existing and proposed fence lines, boundary lines, gates, and cattle guards, plus established dirt roads, paved roads, and turnouts and considers visual impacts of the proposed fencing. The staging area for parking and materials storage is proposed to be the existing dirt parking area on the east side of Evergreen Road where Evergreen Road crosses Ackerson Meadow. The vertical APE extends to 16 inches below ground surface for the T-posts and carsonite boundary markers.

### 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:** Yes

**Property Name:** Archeological Site    **LCS:**

**Archeological Resources Notes:** Archeological survey completed, evaluation in process.

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:** Yes

**Historical Structures/Resources Notes:** Assume eligibility of barn and wooden fencing for Section 106 purposes.

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:** Yes

**Cultural Landscapes Notes:** Assume eligibility of meadow, barn and wooden fencing for Section 106 purposes.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected:** Yes

**Ethnographic Resources Notes:** Tribes and groups did not identify any concerns with the undertaking.



**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)
- ☐ Yes 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
- ☐ 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:** 06/19/2018

**Comments:** Per Cultural Resources Manager: the park is assuming eligibility of barn and wooden fencing for Section 106 review purposes. No historical architect review required because no historic buildings are affected by the project. No response was received from the SHPO by the end of thirty day review period. The park is assuming that the SHPO has no objection to the park's assessment of no adverse effect.

*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

**[ X ] Anthropologist**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 05/08/2018

**Comments:** Tribes and groups did not identify any concerns with the undertaking.

**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

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[ X ] **Archeologist**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 05/08/2018

**Comments:** Fences in areas in archeological sites will be adjusted in the field to avoid areas of significance within sites.

**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

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[ X ] **Historian**

**Name:** Scott Carpenter

**Date:** 05/08/2018

**Comments:** Assume eligibility of barn and wooden fencing for Section 106 review purposes. No historical architect review required because no historic buildings are affected by the project.

**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

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[ X ] **Historical Landscape Architect**

**Name:** Kimball Koch

**Date:** 05/08/2018

**Comments:** Fencing is compatible with historic ranching use.

**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

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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.)

#### ☐ C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

#### ☐ D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

#### ☐ E. Memo to Project File

### 3. Consultation Information

**SHPO Required:** Yes

**SHPO Sent:** May 14, 2018

**THPO Required:** Yes

**THPO Sent:** Jan 31, 2018

**SHPO/THPO Notes:** Per Cultural Resources Manager: the park is assuming eligibility of barn and wooden fencing for Section 106 review purposes. No historical architect review required because no historic buildings are affected by the project. No response was received from the SHPO by the end of thirty day review period. The park is assuming that the SHPO has no objection to the park's assessment of no adverse effect.

**Advisory Council Participating:** No

**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.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

**6. Assessment of Effect Notes:**

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

Kimball      */Kimball Koch/*      06/21/18  
Koch      \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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:** */Teri Austin for/* \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 06/21/18

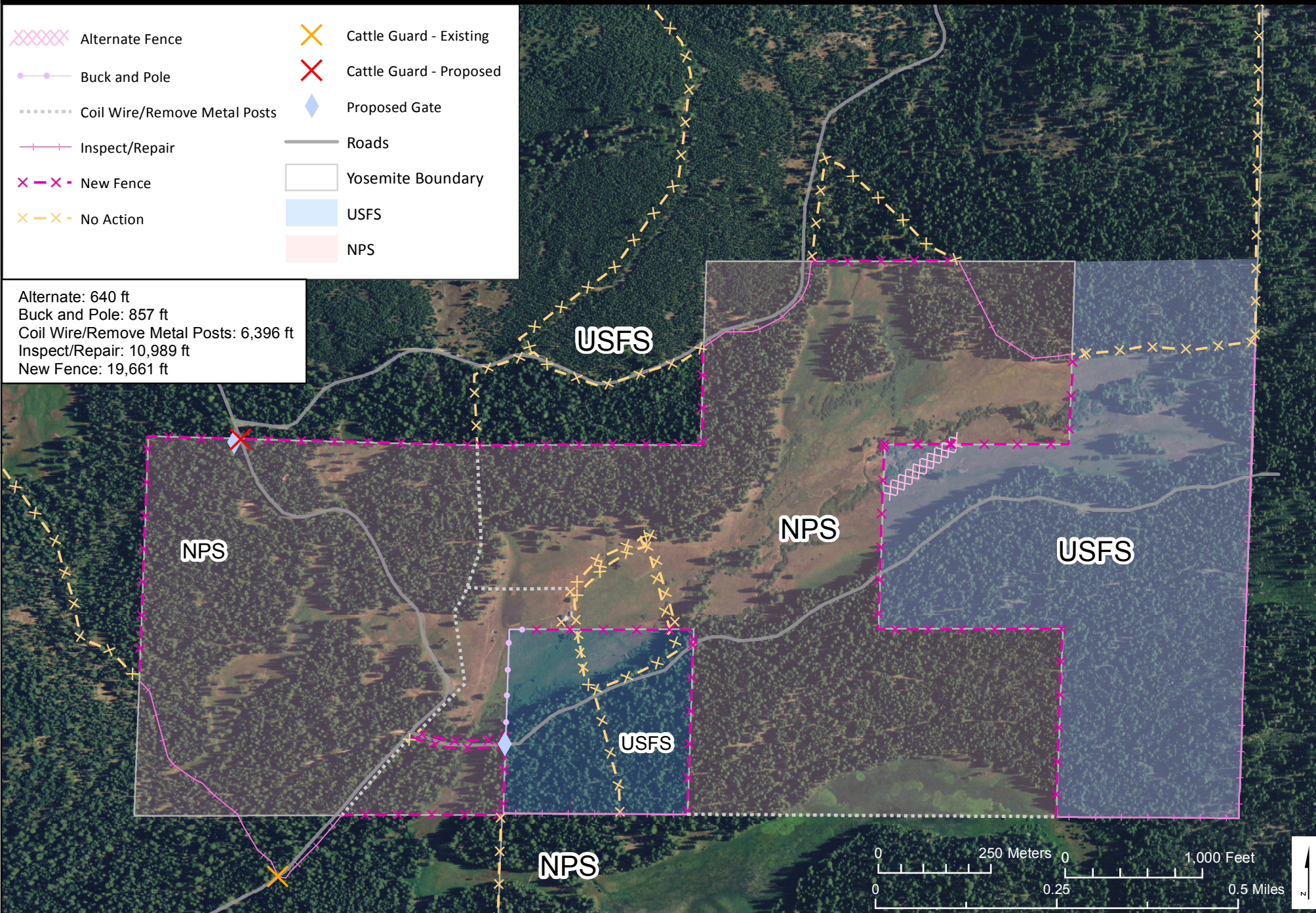
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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in  
Yosemite National Park.



# Ackerson Meadow Fence

Yosemite National Park  
California

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

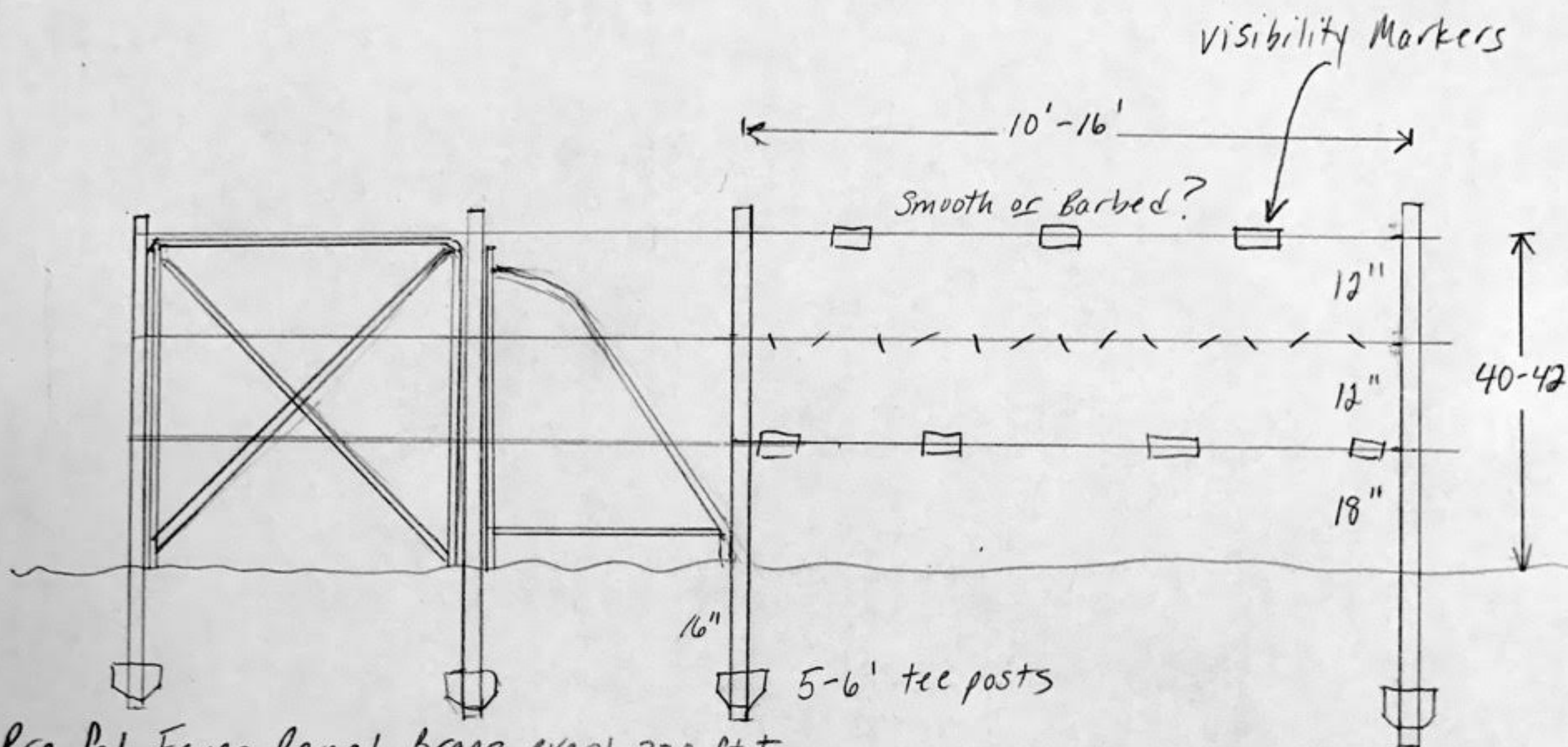




# Proposed Fence Redesign

## wildlife-friendly

Not to Scale



Pre-fab Fence Panel Brace every 330 ft  $\pm$

- less soil disturbance, no concrete
- lighter to transport

### Additional Features

- "Deadmen" in low areas
- Removable or floating panels at stream crossings (Plan B)
- Wire gates in strategic locations to remove cows that get through fence (prevents fence-cutting)
- Public or staff access through fence?  $\rightarrow$  turnstyles