



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-PM)

Memorandum

To: Monica Buhler, Project Manager, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2007-070 Mount Hoffman Route Delineation

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 (12) - *Minor trail relocation or development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes.*

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 any conditions that may be stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//R. Kevin Cann//
Michael J. Tollefson

7-19-07
Date

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

(Version: OCT06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-070

PEPC Project Number: 19166

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Mount Hoffman Route Delineation

Location: Wilderness, Tuolumne County, California

Project Manager: Monica Buhler, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This 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 (NEPA) analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (12) - *Minor trail relocation or development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes.*

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. Environmental impacts will be negligible or less when the project is implemented with the conditions stipulated under **Project Mitigations and Conditions** in **Section I** at the end of the attached *Environmental Screening Form*.

Additional supporting information for this determination and the stipulated conditions can be found in the following attachments (when checked):

- ☒ *Environmental Screening Form*
- ☒ *Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)*
- ☒ *Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- ☐ *Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- ☐ Other:

C. DECISION

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.

//R.Kevin Cann//

Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent

7-19-07

Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

Attachments (3)

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

Environmental Screening Form

(Version: NOV06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-070

PEPC Project Number: 19166

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Mount Hoffman Route Delineation

Location: Wilderness, Tuolumne County, California

Project Manager: Monica Buhler, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

This project proposes to delineate a route from May Lake (9,350') to the top of Mt Hoffman (10,850'). The approximately two mile hike up to the top of Mt. Hoffman is very popular with day hikers and visitors staying at the May Lake High Sierra Camp. There is not a designated trail to the top of the peak, resulting in multiple informal paths crisscrossing the fragile slopes and dozens of rock cairns leading in different directions. Delineation of one route would promote preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources and wilderness character.

The most heavily used path begins at the southwest end of May Lake and quickly ascends to a rocky bench near a small drainage. A population of Congdon's sedge (*Carex congdonii*), a Yosemite special status plant, the type locality (where a plant is first identified and described) of Bishop's Cap (*Mitella breweri*) and a unique moss not yet described and recorded in only three locations in the park are found in this area and need to be protected.

The most heavily used path continues up the drainage to a small meadow. Multiple paths (becoming rutted) go through the edge of the meadow and then switchback through an open forest. The soil is loose and gravelly and several routes braid upward through the denuded, eroding slope. There are two more known populations of Congdon's sedge in this area. The last 0.75 miles of the route is characterized by sparsely vegetated alpine scree, highly erosive without anchoring vegetation. Most of these informal paths (except for those that lead to a false summit) eventually lead to one wide path (nearly 10 feet wide in some places) that steeply ascends to the top of the peak. This path heads straight down, is devoid of vegetation and has many washout gullies and water channels. Some hikers have also taken up "scree skiing" which causes further erosion and vegetation loss. Another small population of Congdon's sedge grows on the summit and would be protected through route delineation. Wilderness, trails, restoration and cultural resource staff will collaborate to identify and delineate the most appropriate and resilient route location. Once a route is defined, it is imperative that all informal paths and impacted areas are restored to natural conditions to encourage hikers to stay on the delineated route. In order to preserve and protect the fragile subalpine and alpine vegetation and control erosion, the following actions are proposed:

- Delineate (by using rocks, logs and natural features and by restoring alternate routes to natural conditions) a route considering wilderness, hydrologic, vegetative and social impacts (Beginning in 2007)
- Build cairns (< 24" tall) to direct hikers to the route where it is difficult to find. (2008)
- Remove existing rock cairns that mislead hikers. (2007 & 8)
- Improve drainage patterns and minimize erosion with swales. (2008)

- Reroute the path out of the small meadow and restore the rutted paths to natural conditions. (2008)
- Restore and revegetate the lower, steeper portion of the "superhighway" to natural conditions and narrow the footprint of the upper, more gradual portion. (2008)
- Restore and revegetate informal paths and impacted areas to natural conditions. (2008)
- Complete surveys for, and protect known location of, the unique moss genus Yosemitea. (2007)
- Protect special status plant species and type localities. (2007 & 8)
- Install signs at May Lake informing hikers of the project and encouraging them to stay on the delineated route. (2008)

In 2007, an inter-divisional group will delineate the route. Swales, route definition and restoration work will be completed in 2008. Cultural resource staff will conduct necessary field surveys and advise on all actions. Annual maintenance will continue for the first couple of years and then on an as needed basis. All minimum impact techniques will be used in completing this project.

Table B1 – Background Information

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Resources Management and Science staff; History, Architecture and Landscape staff; Facilities Management staff.
2a. Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2b. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2c. Is the project consistent with that plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2d. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3a. Are there any interested or affected parties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4b. Has consultation been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Table B2 – Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.)

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Existing and proposed paths; see Attachment A.
2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photos of existing conditions; see Attachment B.
5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal paths will be revegetated and restored down to 12" deep.
2. From geohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary noises associated with trail reconstruction.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Stream flow characteristics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eroded gullies have formed due to the informal paths created by hikers; these areas will be revegetated and restored to natural conditions.
7. Marine or estuarine resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Floodplains or wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The route delineation addresses the need to protect park special status plants.
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project; see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visitor experience will be enhanced by a defined route to Mount Hoffman and wilderness character will be improved.
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Energy resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This trail delineation will protect the parks long-term management of resources.
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. 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 130007)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carex congdonii; the route delineation will protect the areas that contain these rare plants.
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal paths will be revegetated and restored down to 12" deep.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is there a historic property (a building, structure, feature, or all or any part of an archeological district or site, or a historic district or site, or any associated landscape element) that is listed or eligible for listing on the <i>National Register</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there any cultural resource requiring an evaluation of eligibility as a historic property under NHPA, Section 106, before an affect determination can be made?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Would there be alteration of any historic property or associated landscape element covered by 2-7, above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to <u>any</u> of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				

Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST

Is the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Within designated Wilderness?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; see the attached Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis.
2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached.				

Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Diminish or other wise change the values for which the river was designated as a Wild and Scenic River? If "yes", explain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. If 5a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5c. If 5a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to questions 2, 5b, or 5c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

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 (12) - Minor trail relocation or development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes.

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

1. Coordinate with the Planning Division regarding parkwide use trails. (Planning)

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.

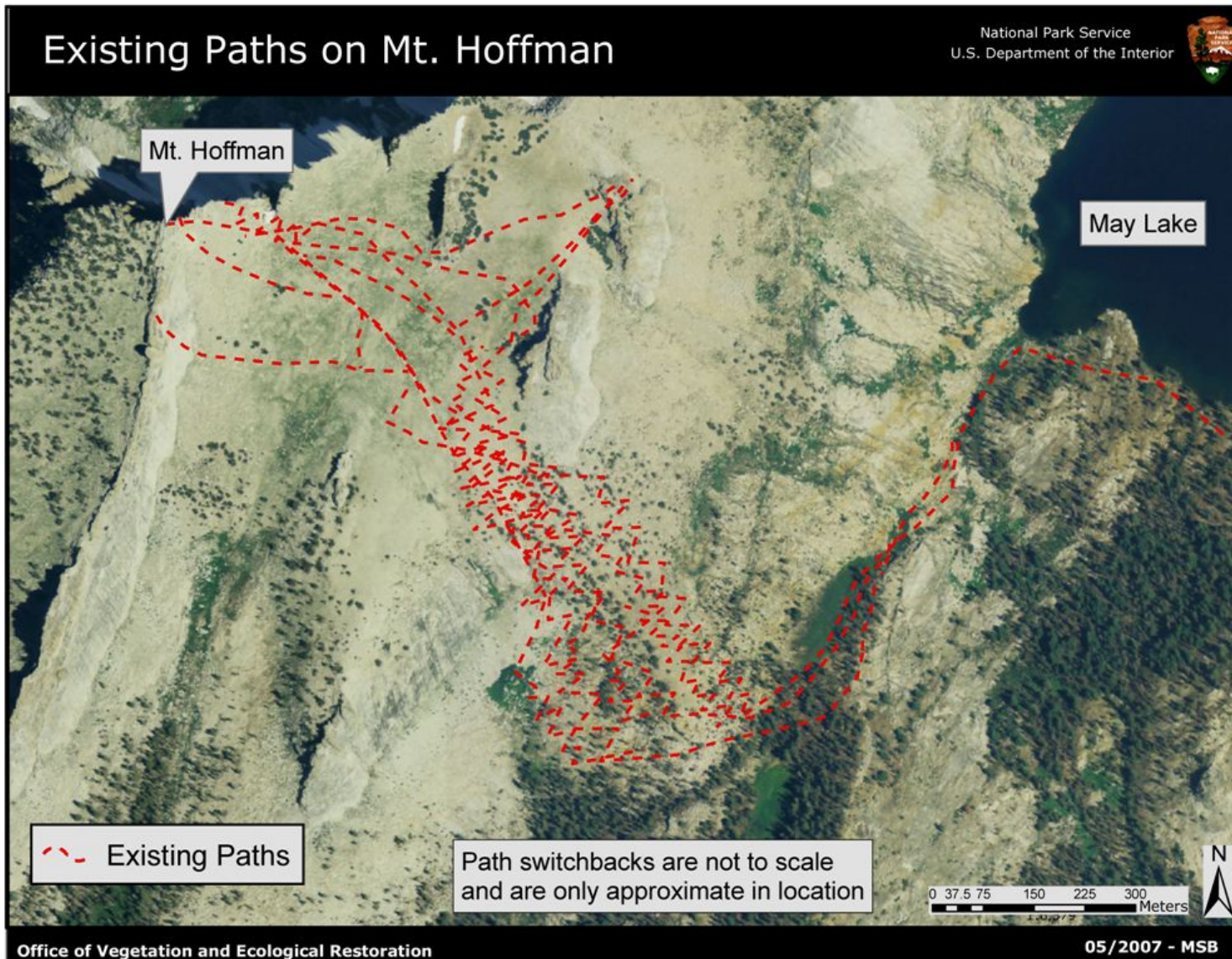
//Renea Kennec// 7/3/07
Compliance Specialist **Date**

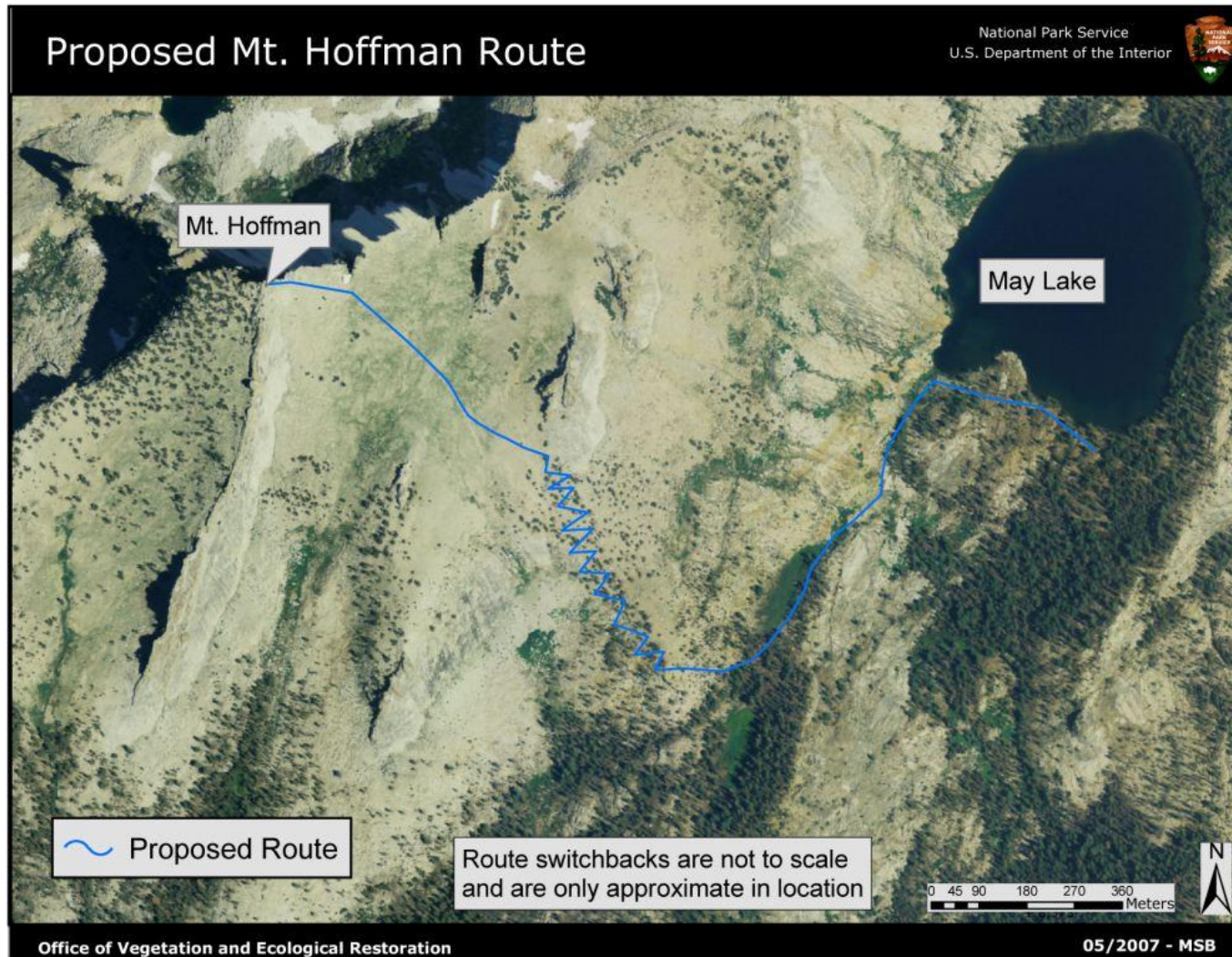
//Mark A. Butler// 7/3/07
Compliance Program Manager **Date**

//Randall Fong// 7/16/07
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





Attachment B



Multiple informal paths near small drainage – 08/2006



Large denuded areas near top of peak – 08/2006



"Superhighway" near the top of the peak – 08/2006



Multiple switchbacks and erosion paths – 08/2006

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-070

PEPC Project Number: 19166

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Mount Hoffman Route Delineation

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Wilderness, Tuolumne County, California

Project Manager: Monica Buhler, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

Project Description: This project proposes to delineate a route from May Lake (9,350') to the top of Mt Hoffman (10,850'). The approximately two mile hike up to the top of Mt. Hoffman is very popular with day hikers and visitors staying at the May Lake High Sierra Camp. There is not a designated trail to the top of the peak, resulting in multiple informal paths crisscrossing the fragile slopes and dozens of rock cairns leading in different directions. Delineation of one route would promote preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources and wilderness character.

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The most heavily used path continues up the drainage to a small meadow. Multiple paths (becoming rutted) go through the edge of the meadow and then switchback through an open forest. The soil is loose and gravelly and several routes braid upward through the denuded, eroding slope. There are two more known populations of Congdon's sedge in this area. The last 0.75 miles of the route is characterized by sparsely vegetated alpine scree, highly erosive without anchoring vegetation. Most of these informal paths (except for those that lead to a false summit) eventually lead to one wide path (nearly 10 feet wide in some places) that steeply ascends to the top of the peak. This path heads straight down, is devoid of vegetation and has many washout gullies and water channels. Some hikers have also taken up "scree skiing" which causes further erosion and vegetation loss. Another small population of Congdon's sedge grows on the summit and would be protected through route delineation.

Wilderness, trails, restoration and cultural resource staff will collaborate to identify and delineate the most appropriate and resilient route location. Once a route is defined, it is imperative that all informal paths and impacted areas are restored to natural conditions to encourage hikers to stay on the delineated route. In order to preserve and protect the fragile subalpine and alpine vegetation and control erosion, the following actions are proposed:

- Delineate (by using rocks, logs and natural features and by restoring alternate routes to natural conditions) a route considering wilderness, hydrologic, vegetative and social impacts. (Beginning in 2007)
- Build cairns (< 24" tall) to direct hikers to the route, where it is difficult to find. (2008)
- Remove existing rock cairns that mislead hikers. (2007 & 8)
- Improve drainage patterns and minimize erosion with swales. (2008)

- Reroute the path out of the small meadow and restore the rutted paths to natural conditions. (2008)
- Restore and revegetate the lower, steeper portion of the "superhighway" to natural conditions and narrow the footprint of the upper, more gradual portion. (2008)
- Restore and revegetate informal paths and impacted areas to natural conditions. (2008)
- Complete surveys for and protect known location of the unique moss genus Yosemitea. (2007)
- Protect special status plant species and type localities. (2007 & 8)
- Install signs at May Lake informing hikers of the project and encouraging them to stay on the delineated route. (2008)

In 2007, an inter-divisional group will delineate the route. Swales, route definition and restoration work will be completed in 2008. Cultural resource staff will conduct necessary field surveys and advise on all actions. Annual maintenance will continue for the first couple of years and from then on only as needed. All minimum impact techniques will be used in completing this project.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR GIS Map
b. Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Sample	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. List of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

** 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 historic properties? If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited survey at May Lake: YOSE 2003H, 1985O, 1998P
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential
2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affected? Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
a. Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected? Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
a. Unknwon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
• Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Replace historic features/elements in kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project design to mitigate damage to natural resources that could include American Indian traditional cultural resources.
• Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Potentially affect presently unidentified historic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsurveyed area; surveying during the project could identify resources that will be protected.
• Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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 prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 06/18/07

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 *Service-wide 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: 6/19/07

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Archeologist: //Laura Kirn//

Cultural Anthropologist

Name: **Sonny Montague**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: _____

Curator

Name: **Jonathan Bayless**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: _____

Historian

Name: **Charles Palmer**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: _____

Historical Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect: _____

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **Dave Humphrey**

Date: 6/19/07

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions: None

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: //DT Humphrey//

Preservation Specialist

Name: **Rod Kennec**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: _____

Native American Liaison

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: _____

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of <Enter Specialist's Title>: _____

**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: //Niki Stephanie Nicholas//
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

Date: 6-20-07

- 2. 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 historic resource management advisors.

☒ **Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement**

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV. A of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement, and is listed in Stipulation IV. B, as:

4. Archeological Monitoring/Testing & Investigations of Historic Structures/Cultural Landscapes involving ground disturbing activities or intrusion into historic fabric for research/inventory; see also Stipulations II and IX.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 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: <Enter Agreement Information>

☐ **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.

3. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse Effect

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:

- a. The park Archeology Office will add this project to their trails survey list. The Project Manager will contact the Archeology Office (379-1314) to conduct surveys and advise route delineation.

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons// Date: 7-19-07

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: //R.Kevin Cann// Date: 7-19-07
Michael J. Tollefson

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