



Document Description:

A PDF text file of the project's approved environmental compliance package containing the letter of compliance completion, categorical exclusion form, environmental screening form, and any other associated environmental clearance forms, as applicable (e.g., Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis, Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Analysis). The signed originals of the package are on file in the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office at Yosemite National Park.

Letter of Compliance Completion

To: Rob Grasso, Aquatic Ecologist, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2020-098 Bullfrog Removal in the Tuolumne River Watershed (PEPC: 91530)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project 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 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.

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Only actions described in PEPC 91530 are approved for implementation. Deviations from or changes to described plans require additional review and approval from the park's Environmental Planning and Compliance Office. Any future actions to reintroduce, augment, or rear native amphibians/reptiles would undergo a separate, future compliance review as a separate project.
- Vegetation Protections: If vegetation pruning is deemed necessary at certain field sites to facilitate Bullfrog eradication activities, the project manager will consult with the park Botanist for proper methods and seek approval for vegetation pruning activities prior to implementing any pruning.
- Wilderness Protections: Project crews will follow "Leave-No-Trace" principles when traveling and working in wilderness areas. Crews will follow all stipulations outlined in their Minimum Requirements Analysis, with special attention to the following:
 - Approved food-storage canisters, 3ft x 2ft x 2ft metal bear boxes, or plastic bear proof paniers for food and gear storage would be packed into the restoration sites at the start of the season and

packed out at the end of the season. Gear that will be cached include camping gear, turtle sampling gear, and bullfrog removal gear. Gear will be covered in brown or green tarps and cached beneath existing vegetation out of the public's view.

- Digital recording devices will be small 3X5X2.5" grey or camouflaged boxes tied to trees. A maximum of 4 devices will be deployed during breeding season (~April-June) and will be removed no later than the end of October.
- Reconyx trail cameras used to determine nest success and to detect predators will be placed will placed for approximately 2 months each year, during the anticipated hatchling emergence period (about mid-April to mid-May) and during the turtle nesting season, (about mid-June to mid-July). All cameras will be tied to trees and motion or heat triggered; 3 or fewer cameras would be deployed at a maximum of 5 sites.
- Off-trail work will be limited to no more than 8 crew members at a given time.
- Wildlife Protections:
 - All traps will be checked at least every 12 hours, and an air space will be provided. Non-target native animals will be immediately released.
 - The park's ornithologist would determine if sensitive avian species were breeding at restoration sites each season and would establish actual dates for when activities could occur and at what level they could occur. If special status raptors were nesting adjacent to project sites, then restoration activities would be postponed until the birds had fledged their nestlings (approximately July 1). Activities would be limited in scope until the young of the year were no longer dependent on their parents for food (approximately August 1).
 - Proper storage and disposal of food and garbage keeps wildlife wild. All staff will be trained in proper storage and disposal of food/trash by wildlife management staff upon arrival at Yosemite. All food, toiletries, drinks, scented items, and food containers must be placed in on-site approved bear canisters or panniers, which must remain closed and latched, unless items are within arms-reach of an awake person.
 - All equipment, clothing, and gear would be checked for debris, cleaned of any visible plant or soil matter, and disinfected with quaternary ammonia following Yosemite's disinfection protocol prior to moving to a new site

Superintendent: *Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent*

Date: *23 March 2020*

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



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Bullfrog Removal in the Tuolumne River Watershed

PEPC Project Number: 91530

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project will complete the eradication of non-native bullfrogs from the Tuolumne River Watershed, with focus on the Swamp Lake/Miguel Meadow/Gravel Pit Lake (SMG) area of the park and the mainstem Tuolumne River in and outside of the park on federal lands, through removal of adults, tadpoles, and egg masses. This effort builds upon funded efforts in 2005-2006 which removed a vast majority of the frogs, and 2007-2011 base-funded efforts to prevent resurgence of the bullfrogs in Yosemite Valley, but is now being conducted in a new (backcountry) area of the park. It is expected that complete removal will require concentrated efforts to locate and catch the last individuals, and to prevent reproduction through removal of egg masses.

Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeianus*) are a non-native species in the western U.S., including Yosemite National Park. They are highly carnivorous, opportunistic feeders that eat anything they can get their mouths around, including: insects, reptiles, and small birds and mammals - including bats. Bullfrogs currently infest several ponds within SMG area and have been previously detected along the mainstem of the Tuolumne River, just outside of the park on Stanislaus National Forest lands.

The proposed eradication effort would occur over a five-year period (2019-2024) and would focus on removal of Bullfrog egg masses in the spring, removal of adult frogs and tadpoles in the spring and summer, and removal of metamorphosing frogs in early fall. Bullfrogs often congregate and breeding sites have been mapped in the SMG area, as well as the mainstem Tuolumne River. Egg masses would be found, identified, and removed using a fine-mesh net such as a paint strainer. Adult and metamorph frogs would be removed through the use of gigs, traps, air guns (using non-lead ammunition), hand-grab, and nets. If tadpoles hatch, the park would remove them with nets, or minnow traps concentrating on late summer when water levels are lowest and tadpoles are concentrated (bullfrog tadpoles require two years to metamorphose into adults at the elevation of the SMG area). Removal of frogs would occur primarily at night, when bright headlamps can be used to dazzle/stun the frogs, allowing park crews to approach the animal for capture (using hand-grab, spears, pellet guns). Removal of egg masses and tadpoles would occur primarily during daylight hours when they would be most visible.

Repeated visits to the breeding ponds and locations are planned throughout the summer seasons in order to maximize the number of frogs and tadpoles removed. Past efforts (2005-2019) in Yosemite Valley have resulted in an estimated >95% reduction in the bullfrog population in the first two years. Further application of these methods is expected to result in complete elimination of bullfrogs from the project areas.

As part of a monitoring component that would measure the response of native amphibians/reptiles to bullfrog eradication efforts, the project also includes visual and eDNA surveys for amphibians and turtles, monitoring of turtle nests using remote trail cameras, trapping and marking (scute notching and GPS/radio tracking) of Western pond turtles throughout the project area. The project also includes the placement of song-meters in the project area, as needed, for Bullfrog detection. These actions are not discussed in detail here because they are covered under an existing programmatic categorical exclusion for Wildlife Management Routine Activities (PEPC 78040). They are also covered by the attached Minimum Requirements Analysis.

Bullfrog removal effort occurring outside of the park along the Mainstem of the Tuolumne River on USFS lands are being coordinated with and approved by Stanislaus National Forest before implementation.

Mitigation(s):

- Only actions described in PEPC 91530 are approved for implementation. Deviations from or changes to described plans require additional review and approval from the park's Environmental Planning and Compliance Office. Any future actions to reintroduce, augment, or rear native amphibians/reptiles would undergo a separate, future compliance review as a separate project.
- Vegetation Protections: If vegetation pruning is deemed necessary at certain field sites to facilitate Bullfrog eradication activities, the project manager will consult with the park Botanist for proper methods and seek approval for vegetation pruning activities prior to implementing any pruning.
- Wilderness Protections: Project crews will follow "Leave-No-Trace" principles when traveling and working in wilderness areas. Crews will follow all stipulations outlined in their Minimum Requirements Analysis, with special attention to the following:
 - Approved food-storage canisters, 3ft x 2ft x 2ft metal bear boxes, or plastic bear proof paniers for food and gear storage would be packed into the restoration sites at the start of the season and packed out at the end of the season. Gear that will be cached include camping gear, turtle sampling gear, and bullfrog removal gear. Gear will be covered in brown or green tarps and cached beneath existing vegetation out of the public's view.
 - Digital recording devices will be small 3X5X2.5" grey or camouflaged boxes tied to trees. A maximum of 4 devices will be deployed during breeding season (~April-June) and will be removed no later than the end of October.
 - Reconyx trail cameras used to determine nest success and to detect predators will be placed will placed for approximately 2 months each year, during the anticipated hatchling emergence period (about mid-April to mid-May) and during the turtle nesting season, (about mid-June to mid-July). All cameras will be tied to trees and motion or heat triggered; 3 or fewer cameras would be deployed at a maximum of 5 sites.
 - Off-trail work will be limited to no more than 8 crew members at a given time.
- Wildlife Protections:
 - All traps will be checked at least every 12 hours, and an air space will be provided. Non-target native animals will be immediately released.
 - The park's ornithologist would determine if sensitive avian species were breeding at restoration sites each season and would establish actual dates for when activities could occur and at what level they could occur. If special status raptors were nesting adjacent to project sites, then restoration activities would be postponed until the birds had fledged their nestlings (approximately July 1). Activities would be limited in scope until the young of the year were no longer dependent on their parents for food (approximately August 1).
 - Proper storage and disposal of food and garbage keeps wildlife wild. All staff will be trained in proper storage and disposal of food/trash by wildlife management staff upon arrival at Yosemite. All food, toiletries, drinks, scented items, and food containers must be placed in on-site approved bear canisters or panniers, which must remain closed and latched, unless items are within arms-reach of an awake person.
 - All equipment, clothing, and gear would be checked for debris, cleaned of any visible plant or soil matter, and disinfected with quaternary ammonia following Yosemite's disinfection protocol prior to moving to a new site.

CE Citation: E.3 Removal of park resident individuals of non-threatened/endangered species which pose a danger to visitors, threaten park resources or become a nuisance in areas surrounding a park, when such removal is included in an approved resource management plan.

CE Justification: Bullfrogs are invasive species that are well-documented to have negative impacts on sensitive, special status species.

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: Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent **Date:** 23 March 2020

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 | Project eradicates prolific non-native American bullfrogs to restore habitat/conditions for native species. |



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Bullfrog Removal in the Tuolumne River Watershed
PEPC Project Number: 91530
Project Type: Invasive Species Management (ISM)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Rob Grasso

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion form.

C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|---|----------------------|---|
| Air Air Quality | None | |
| Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species <i>Non-native American Bullfrogs</i> | Potential | Issue: Project eradicates non-native American Bullfrogs, which are having negative impacts on native wildlife. Impact: Project benefits native species by removing a prolific non-native predator and competitor of native wildlife. |
| Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat <i>California red-legged frog,</i> <i>Foothill yellow-legged frog,</i> <i>Western pond turtle</i> | Potential | Issue: Project areas are habitat for special status species including, the California red-legged frog (federally threatened), Foothill yellow-legged frog (state endangered), and Western pond turtle (state species of special concern). Project eradicates non-native American Bullfrogs, which are having negative impacts on native wildlife. Impact: Project benefits native species by removing a prolific non-native predator and competitor, restoring habitat and conditions under which special status species can thrive. |
| Biological Vegetation <i>Willows, Riparian Vegetation</i> | Potential | Issue: Willows or riparian vegetation may be trimmed with pruning shears or loppers to allow access to densely vegetated waters where in order to facilitate eradication of bullfrogs. Impact: Temporary, short term impacts to riparian vegetation. |

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species <i>Wildlife Habitat</i> | Potential | Issue: Bullfrogs occupy wildlife habitat and have negative impacts on native wildlife including displacement, competition, and predation. Impact: Project benefits native species habitat by removing a non-native species, restoring habitat and conditions under which special status species can thrive. |
| Cultural Archeological Resources <i>Archeological Sites; Gravel Pit Lake</i> | Potential | Issue: Although various archeological sites are found nearby to proposed Bullfrog eradication sites, eradication efforts do not have ground disturbing components. Gravel Pit Lake is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places due to its association with the construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam/Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The park considered it eligible for listing for compliance purposes with the section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act when evaluating the potential impacts of the project. Impact: No effect on archeological sites or Gravel Pit Lake due to no ground disturbance. |
| Cultural Cultural Landscapes <i>Cultural Resources</i> | Potential | Issue: Project was presented to traditionally associated American Indian Tribes in November 2019 tribal spreadsheet for their review. Impact: Traditionally associated American Indian Tribes did not identify concerns or comment on the project. |
| Cultural Ethnographic Resources | None | |
| Cultural Museum Collections | None | |
| Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures | None | |
| Geological Geologic Features | None | |
| Geological Geologic Processes | None | |
| Lightscaapes Lightscaapes | None | |
| Other Human Health and Safety | None | |
| Other Operational | None | |
| Other Other | None | |

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Socioeconomic Land Use | None | |
| Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc. | None | |
| Socioeconomic Socioeconomic | None | |
| Soundscapes Soundscapes <i>Soundscapes</i> | Potential | <p>Issue: Bullfrogs call loudly for most of the spring and summer seasons, disrupting the native soundscape in habitats where they are present.</p> <p>Impact: Project will have beneficial impact on soundscapes because the project will remove bullfrogs which have a boisterous, loud call that drowns out native frog choruses at night.</p> |
| Viewsheds Viewsheds <i>Viewsheds</i> | Potential | <p>Issue: Non-native bullfrogs are a common sight at backcountry destinations for visitors, such as Gravel Pit Lake and Swamp Lake.</p> <p>Impact: Project will remove the non-native bullfrogs and allow for recovery of charismatic native species populations, such as Western Pond turtles, California red-legged frogs, Foothill yellow-legged frogs, and Pacific chorus frogs.</p> |
| Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources | None | |
| Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience | Potential | <p>Issue: Non-native bullfrogs are a common sight at backcountry destinations for visitors, such as Gravel Pit Lake and Swamp Lake, that are currently having negative impacts on the native ecosystem.</p> <p>Impact: Project will have beneficial impacts by removing non-native bullfrogs and allowing for recovery of native ecosystems for visitors to experience.</p> |
| Water Floodplains | None | |
| Water Marine or Estuarine Resources | None | |
| Water Water Quality or Quantity <i>Water Quality</i> | Potential | <p>Issue: Crews are using physical means to remove Bullfrog life stages from water bodies; no chemicals would be used in waterbodies.</p> <p>Impact: Water quality will not be impacted by project activities, because crews will use physical means to remove Bullfrogs (no chemicals would not be used in water).</p> |
| Water Wetlands | None | |

| Resource | Potential for Impact | Potential Issues & Impacts |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Water Wild and Scenic River <i>Tuolumne River (Wild and Scenic River)</i> | Potential | <p>Issue: Bullfrogs would be removed from sections of the Tuolumne River, a Wild and Scenic River.</p> <p>Impact: Project would not alter flow or water quality, or have negative impacts to outstandingly remarkable values of the river. The project would have long-term beneficial impacts to the native ecosystem in the Wild and Scenic River, enhancing the biological and recreational values of the segments where work is proposed.</p> |
| Wilderness Wilderness <i>Wilderness</i> | Potential | <p>Issue: Project actions would occur within designated wilderness.</p> <p>Impact: The project would have temporary impacts to wilderness character associated with crew camps and gear caches, marking/GPS tagging wildlife, and temporary installation of cameras, song-meters, and trapping equipment. However, the project would have long-term benefits to wilderness character due to removal of non-native species and restoration of native ecosystems. Follow stipulations outlined in the project Minimum Requirements Analysis to minimize short-term impacts to wilderness character.</p> |



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Bullfrog Removal in the Tuolumne River Watershed

Prepared by: Ninette Daniele **Date Prepared:** 11/19/2019 **Telephone:**

PEPC Project Number: 91530

Locations:

County, State: Tuolumne, CA

Describe project: See Categorical Exclusion form.

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

The Tuolumne River Watershed, with focus on Swamp Lake and Gravel Pit Lake, and small, unnamed water bodies and streams in the vicinity, as well as the mainstem of the Tuolumne River below O'Shaughnessy Dam.

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

No

Yes

Source or reference:

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

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

Archeological Resources Notes: Gravel Pit lake was a borrow pit for construction materials for O'Shaughnessy Dam project. Site has yet to be evaluated for eligibility.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: No

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Notes: No sites have been identified to date. Project was included as an informational item on the November 2019 tribal spreadsheet distributed to traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups.

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)
- No 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: 11/19/2019

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]

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: 11/19/2019

Comments: Project was included as an informational item on the November 2019 tribal spreadsheet distributed to traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups.

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] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 11/19/2019

Comments: The project area was archeologically surveyed with good ground visibility in 1998. Gravel Pit lake was created in the late 1930s when sand from the area was scoured out to support construction of the dam at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The lake itself has been identified as an archeological site, but has not been formally documented or evaluated. The project will not involve ground disturbance and will not disturb the archeological site.

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:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 11/19/2019

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:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 11/19/2019

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:

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:

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: No

SHPO Sent: Jan 23, 2020

SHPO Received: Mar 3, 2020

THPO Required: No

THPO Sent: Nov 26, 2019

THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes: Project included as an informational item on the November 2019 tribal spreadsheet; no comments or concerns have been received from the tribes to date. SHPO response indicated that they concurred with the park's assessment of no adverse effect to historic properties, but indicated the project could have been appropriately designated as "no potential to affect historic properties."

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

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.)

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Only actions described in PEPC 91530 are approved for implementation. Deviations from or changes to described plans require additional review and approval from the park's Environmental Planning and Compliance Office. Any future actions to reintroduce, augment, or rear populations of native herpetofauna would undergo a separate, future compliance review as a separate project.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Madelyn Ruffner _____ **Date:** *12 March 2020* _____

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: *Cicely Muldoon, Acting* _____ **Date:** *23 March 2020* _____
Superintendent

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



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
PEPC Project Number: 91530
Project Title: Bullfrog Removal in the Tuolumne River Watershed
Project Type: Invasive Species Management
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne, CA
Project Leader: Rob Grasso

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? No
If species in area: No Effect
Was Biological Assessment prepared? No
If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?
Formal Consultation required? No
Formal Consultation Notes: Project area was former habitat for California red-legged frogs in the vicinity Swamp Lake and Gravel Pit Lake. California red-legged frogs are believed to be extirpated from the area and have not been seen there since the late-1970's. Bullfrog eradication, as proposed by this project, would allow the park to consider re-introducing California red-legged frogs to the area in the future as part of a separate project, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others. Project actions would have potential long-term benefits to California red-legged frogs.

Formal Consultation Concluded:
Any State listed Species in the Project Area? Yes
Consultation Information: Parts of the project area along the mainstem of the Tuolumne River are occupied by Foothill yellow-legged frogs, a state endangered species. The project area along the Tuolumne River and waterbodies in the Swamp Lake/Gravel Pit Lake/Miguel Meadows area are occupied by Western pond turtles, a state species of special concern. Project activities are anticipated to have no adverse impacts to either of these species. Project actions would have long-term benefits to both species from removing a non-native species that is documented to have detrimental impacts to both species. Parts of the project area may be occupied by Great Grey Owls or other special status raptors. In order to avoid potential impacts to special status raptors, the park's ornithologist would determine if sensitive avian species were breeding at restoration sites each season and would establish actual dates for when activities could occur and at what level they could occur. If special status raptors were nesting adjacent to project sites, then restoration activities would be postponed until the birds had fledged their nestlings (approximately July 1). Activities would be limited in scope until the young of the year were no longer dependent on their parents for food (approximately August 1).
General Notes:

Data Entered By: Ninette Daniele

Date: Mar 4, 2020

ESA Mitigations: None – no federally listed species in the project area

Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

| Question | Yes | No | Details |
|--|-----|----|---|
| A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area? | Yes | | Determined to be exempt from compliance with Director's Order #77-2 and no Floodplain Statement of Findings required. |
| A.2. Is Project in wetlands as defined by NPS/DOI? | Yes | | Determined to be exempt from compliance with Director's Order #77-1 and no Wetland Statement of Findings required. |
| B. COE Section 404 permit needed? | | No | No placement of fill in waters of the United States. |
| C. State 401 certification? | | No | |
| D. State Section 401 Permit? | | No | Issue Date: Expiration Date: |
| E. Tribal Water Quality Permit? | | No | |
| F. CZM Consistency determination needed? | | No | Date Review Requested: Date Reply Received: Date State Concurred: |
| G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required? | | No | |
| H. Any other permits required? | | No | Permit Information: |
| Other Information: | | | |

Data Entered By: Ninette Daniele **Date:** Mar 4, 2020

FloodPlains & Wetlands Mitigations: *No FloodPlains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.*

Wilderness

| Question | Yes | No | |
|---|-----|----|--|
| A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? | Yes | | |
| B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness? | Yes | | |
| C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness? | Yes | | |
| D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required) | | No | |

| Question | Yes | No | |
|--|-----|----|--|
| E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required) | Yes | | |
| If the answer to D or E above is "Yes" then a Minimum Requirements Analysis is required. Describe the status of this analysis in the column to the right. | | | Initiation Date: Feb 11, 2019 Completed Date: Feb 25, 2019 Approved Date: Feb 28, 2019 |
| Other Information: Project would be consistent with project activities and stipulations described in the MRA (attached). | | | |

Data Entered By: Ninette Daniele **Date:** Mar 4, 2020

Other Permits/Laws *Questions A & B are no longer used.*

| Question | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist? | Yes | |
| D. National Trails concerns exist? | | No |
| E. Air Quality consult with State needed? | | No |
| F. Consistent with Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts or not Applicable? (If N/A check Yes) | Yes | |
| G. Other: | | No |

Other Information:

Parts of project would be carried out along sections of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River. Project activities would result in no changes to flow or water quality, and would not pose adverse impacts to outstandingly remarkable values. Project would enhance recreation and biological values in the long-term by eliminating a non-native species and allowing for native species to recover.

Data

Entered

By: Ninette Daniele **Date:** Mar 4, 2020