



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: Ryan Kelly, Project Manager, Yosemite Conservancy

From: Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2020-067 Climbing Exhibit Project, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (PEPC: 88218)

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:

- Rear window and door glass shall remain free of exhibits. Any changes to approved attachment design must be reviewed and approved by the Yosemite Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.
- Only actions specified in PEPC 88218 are approved for implementation. Changes to or deviations from the approved plans require additional review and approval from the Yosemite Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.

Superintendent: _____
Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent

Date: _____
2/4/2020

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Climbing Exhibit Project, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

PEPC Project Number: 88218

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project will replace temporary exhibits that have been on display for twelve years in the Valley Visitor Center. This project includes new exhibits that interpret the climbing history of Yosemite. The existing themes of Global Connections and Faces of Yosemite will be incorporated into the new exhibits. A design process for the new exhibits began in June of 2019 with the expected installation occurring in spring 2020. The proposed climbing exhibits would include removable/reversible attachment methods similar to what is there now. The existing exhibits will be removed by the contractor and sent to a waste facility.

Mitigation(s):

- Rear window and door glass shall remain free of exhibits. Any changes to approved attachment design must be reviewed and approved by the Yosemite Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.
- Only actions specified in PEPC 88218 are approved for implementation. Changes to or deviations from the approved plans require additional review and approval from the Yosemite Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.

CE Citation: C.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

CE Justification: Remove outdated interpretative materials at the Valley Visitors Center and replace them with new exhibit

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: _____
2/6/2020

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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	Existing exhibits are non-historic elements in a historic building. No attachments would be needed to the historic building.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Climbing Exhibit Project, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center
PEPC Project Number:	88218
Project Type:	Other Administrative Activities (ADM)
Project Location:	
County, State:	Mariposa, California
Project Leader:	Ryan Kelly

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	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	None	
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
Cultural Archeological Resources	None	
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections	None	

Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures <i>Historic Building</i>	Potential	Issue: Exhibits are located in a building potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscares	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	None	
Other	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes	None	
Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience <i>Temporary impact</i>	Potential	Issue: Visitor experience at the visitor center may be temporarily disrupted during the removal of the existing exhibits and the installation of the new exhibits
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness	None	



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Climbing Exhibit Project, Yosemite Valley Visitor Center

Prepared by: Ninette Daniele **Date Prepared:** 05/14/2019 **Telephone:**

PEPC Project Number: 88218

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Describe project: See Categorical Exclusion form.

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

The APE is the interior section of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center building that houses the existing "Faces of Yosemite" and "Global Connections" exhibits.

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

	No
X	Yes
	Source or reference:

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

Archeological Resources Present: No

Archeological Resources Notes: Project is interior to Visitor Center building, but within the boundaries of the Yosemite Valley Archeological District. No historic properties affected.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Historic building is currently being evaluated to be included as a contributing building to the Mission 66-era amendment to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Cultural Landscapes Notes: Work is interior to building, no cultural landscape affected.

Ethnographic Resources Present: No

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
Yes	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
No	Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
No	Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
No	Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
	Other (please specify):

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

[X] 106 Advisor

Name: Madelyn Ruffner

Date: 01/30/2020

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] Anthropologist

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 05/15/2019

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

[X] Archeologist

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 05/14/2019

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [X]

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

[X] **Historian**

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 05/15/2019

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] **Historical Architect**

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 10/15/2019

Comments: The schematic design includes covering the rear windows and exit door glass with images. These images should be moved to a location within the exhibit space rather than covering the glass.

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: The no adverse effect determination assumes the rear window and door glass will remain clear and not be covered with images as proposed.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] **Historical Landscape Architect**

Name: Kimball Koch

Date: 05/15/2019

Comments: Work is interior to the building. No cultural landscapes affected

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [☐]

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☒ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No

Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

	No Potential to Cause Effects
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	No Historic Properties Affected
X	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: Nov 20, 2019

SHPO Received: Jan 2, 2020

THPO Required: No

THPO Sent: NA

THPO Received: NA

SHPO/THPO Notes: Project entirely indoors, so tribal consultation was not warranted.

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:

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6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

NHPA Specialist Madelyn Ruffner Date: 1/30/2020
Madelyn Ruffner

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 Date: 2/4/2020
Cicely Muldoon, Acting Superintendent

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