



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: Matthew Outhier, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2021-019 Rehabilitate Crane Flat Campground - Phase 2: Loops B/C/D & AABAS Accessibility Upgrades (PEPC: 92886)

The Superintendent and park interdisciplinary team have reviewed the proposed project and completed an impact analysis and documentation, and have determined the following:

- The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the Fisher. There will not be any other 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 project actions described in PEPC 92886 are approved for implementation. Modifications to plans or additional actions require additional review and approval from the Yosemite National Park Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.
- The project shall be staged to minimize campground closure and coordinate with the park Campground Manager at least 6 months ahead of the planned closure to facilitate removing these sites from the park's online reservation system.
- The project manager shall ensure that project personnel (managers, supervisors, and staff) attend a resources protection briefing given by NPS Resources Management and Sciences Division (RMS) staff prior to working on site to become familiar with statutory and contractual environmental requirements and protection measures for archeological sites, sensitive habitats, water resources, and wildlife. Required topics include proper storage and disposal of food/trash, behavior around wildlife, protection of cultural resources, avoidance of introduction of exotic plants, and protections for any listed or sensitive species.

Contractors will watch the "Working in Yosemite" video. The project manager is responsible for coordinating educational training with RMS well ahead of the anticipated project implementation.

- Final plans must be reviewed and approved by the park's AABAS accessibility coordinator (Brad Lewis).
- Cultural Resource Protections:
 - Archeological and tribal monitoring are required and shall be funded by the project account; coordinate with the park Cultural Resources Program Manager well ahead of planned project implementation to schedule and coordinate cultural monitoring. Project actions shall not take place within sites marked for avoidance by park Archeologists or Cultural Resources staff.
 - If previously unknown cultural resources are encountered, the project manager shall temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact the Cultural Resource Program Manager (209-379-1314) who will evaluate and determine appropriate action to protect resources, which could include consultation with appropriate parties (e.g., tribes, SHPO). Although not expected, should previously unknown American Indian burial sites be discovered, the Cultural Resource Program Manager will provide direction to follow provisions Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act requirements.
- Vegetation Protections:
 - Contract specifications are to include standard Natural Resource Protection Division 1 specs. Of particular importance are the following: Equipment must be thoroughly washed and inspected by government staff before entry into park (contact Invasive Plant Botanist at 209-379-3282 at least one week in advance to schedule inspection). Fill and aggregate must be from an approved source (contact Invasive Plant Botanist at 209-379-3282 for approved sources or to arrange inspection). Provide funding for vegetation construction monitor to conduct equipment inspections and consult on vegetation protection. Avoid rare and invasive plant populations as flagged by construction monitor.
 - The project scope will include revegetation and pre- and post-project invasive plant treatment.
 - Project manager will coordinate with Park Botanist and Forester to avoid and reduce impacts to Sugar pines in the project area. A revegetation plan shall be developed to restore disturbed areas.
 - All disturbed ground shall be reclaimed using appropriate best management practices, which may include planting or seeding with native vegetation, or, in the case of small treatment areas, allowing native vegetation to reclaim the area naturally. Project leader shall consult with the Vegetation Branch to determine the best methods for restoration.
 - Remove existing populations of exotic vegetation prior to construction activities and conduct appropriate monitoring and follow-up treatment after construction.
 - Contact the Vegetation and Ecological Restoration Branch Chief (209-379-3296) to arrange for equipment inspection before entering the park. All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned to minimize the introduction of non-native plants (dirt, mud seeds or other potential contaminants attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts shall be thoroughly cleaned before entry into the park). All heavy equipment will be inspected by trained park staff before entering the park. Areas inspected will include, but not be limited to, tracks, track guard/housings, belly pans/under covers, buckets, rippers, and other attachments. Equipment that does not pass inspection will be turned around to the nearest cleaning facility outside the park. Re-clean equipment before returning to the project or staging area if it is removed from the general vicinity of the project or staging area.
 - Use measures to prevent and control spills of fuels, lubricants, or other contaminants. Staff will tighten hydraulic fittings, ensure hydraulic hoses are in good condition (replace if damaged), and repair petroleum leaks before mechanized equipment is used on this project. Erosion and Sediment Control: Use only erosion/sediment control products that either do not contain netting, or that contain netting manufactured from 100% biodegradable non-plastic materials such as jute,

sisal, or coir fiber. Degradable, photodegradable, UV-degradable, oxo-degradable, or oxo-biodegradable plastic netting (including polypropylene, nylon, polyethylene, and polyester) are not acceptable. Work crews will take measures to reduce sedimentation and erosion.

- Wildlife Protections - Fisher:

- Project activities involving noise above ambient levels (tree removal, heavy equipment operation, generator use, paving, grading, etc.) will NOT occur between March 1 and June 1 annually.
- Staff shall follow posted speed limits while traveling in the park and reduce their speed by an additional 5 miles per hour during dusk and dawn. On-site (defined as the campground access roads) speeds must be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- The Park wildlife biologist will teach work crews how to identify fisher, den trees, and other important habitat components that, if feasible, should be retained. If a fisher is observed at a work site, work in that area will be immediately stopped and a wildlife biologist (209-379-1437) will be immediately notified. Work may resume when the fisher is observed leaving the area or a wildlife biologist confirms work may resume
- Large diameter trees and California black oaks (>20 inches DBH), will be retained and protected when possible. When possible the project will maintain and enhance habitat heterogeneity within and between core habitat areas. If possible, the project will maintain and enhance cover between habitat patches to allow for connectivity
- Any temporary fencing shall allow for the safe passage of fishers. Any pipes, water tanks, or trenches will be capped, screened, or fitted with escape ramps if they cannot be closed each night to avoid entrapment of wildlife.

- Wildlife Protections - Food Storage and Garbage Disposal:

- New bear lockers shall be installed as part of the project upgrades to campsite furnishings.
- All staff will be trained in proper storage and disposal of food/trash by wildlife management staff upon arrival at Yosemite. The project manager is responsible for coordinating this training.
- All food, toiletries, drinks, scented items, and food containers must be placed in on-site food lockers provided by the project manager or Contractor. Food lockers must remain closed and latched, unless items are within arms-reach of an awake person. Between sunset and sunrise, no food or containers may be stored in vehicles. During daylight, food and containers may be left in the car but must be hidden from view with windows completely closed. Food and containers must not be left in the bed of a truck or in a vehicle with windows open at any time.
- The project manager or Contractor must designate an employee to monitor the work site daily for food. All waste must be disposed of in the bear-proof receptacles. The monitor must walk the job site at the end of each day and check for garbage, food, and food-related items remaining at the site and put them in a bear-proof receptacles. All windows and doors in recreational vehicles or trailers used for lodging or office space must be closed and latched when not occupied. Proper food storage is required by law. Project staff must call the Save-a-Bear hotline (209) 372-0322 to report overflowing trash containers, improperly stored food, or bear sightings. All construction dumpsters must be specifically approved by the park Wildlife Management Program.

- Wildlife Protections - Owl Protections:

- Project staff are to be aware of the potential for owls to be present in the vicinity (if owls are seen, please contact the park Terrestrial Ecologist at 209-379-1435).
- The project manager will limit the effects of light/noise on adjacent habitat through controls on construction equipment. Work shall only occur during daylight hours, between 30 minutes after dawn and 30 minutes before dusk.

- Coordinate with the wildlife biologist to identify any nest trees. Tree removal will not occur within 50 feet of known nest trees. Project activities can disrupt nesting and shall be implemented outside of the nesting season (March 1-July 31); if this is unavoidable, consult the Terrestrial Ecologist well ahead of work commencing to coordinate owl surveys starting in March. If an active nest is detected, no activities will occur within 0.25 miles of the nest site.

Superintendent: Cicely Muldoon **Date:** March 9, 2021
Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent

*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: Rehabilitate Crane Flat Campground - Phase 2: Loops B/C/D & AABAS Accessibility Upgrades

PEPC Project Number: 92886

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project will rehabilitate the 5,000 linear feet of campground roads in Loops B, C, and D, and 120 campsites, making 10 fully accessible. This project will be one of several to rehabilitate and repair the badly deteriorated campgrounds that are located outside of Yosemite Valley and away from the Merced River corridor. Compliance for Phase I (Loops A & E) can be found in PEPC 89693.

CONSTRUCTION TIMING: Tree removal is planned to occur in Fall of 2021. Construction is anticipated to occur from June 2022 to November 2022, which would close the campground to visitor use entirely for that year. The park had initially planned to sequence the project activities to allow for the campground to remain open during construction, due to the funding availability being cyclical at that time. However, the park is now able to construct Phase I and Phase II activities during the same year. Sequencing the construction by each loop would degrade the visitor experience in loops proximal to active construction and could pose additional safety issues and operational complexities. Consolidating construction to one summer closure (versus subsequent loop closures each summer) was selected as the option that would minimize perturbations to visitor experience in the long term, would maximize safety and operational efficiency, and would best fit project funding availability.

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Phase II work includes the pulverizing and repaving of the existing paved loop roads, repair and corrections to drainage throughout B, C, and D camping loops, restoration of camping sites, and native revegetation of disturbed areas within the campgrounds, as well as accessibility upgrades.

Roadway Restoration and Drainage Control:

Phase II includes repaving approximately 5,000 linear feet of existing campground roads in loops B, C, and D to correct failing pavement and drainage problems, as well as improve visitor experience. The project would correct drainage problems by installing 5 culverts and constructing 911 linear feet of unpaved ditches to correct design flaws. New culverts would be installed for ditches crossing the parking areas and where new culverts are needed to convey water from one side of the road to the other. Areas of severe erosion will be regraded and revegetated to restore natural conditions. Surface water flow will be controlled through the use of drainage ditches and culverts. Riprap will be installed as energy dissipaters at culvert entrances and exits, as well as in steeper sections of the drainage ditches. The road will be regraded to flow towards the uphill side, preventing storm water run-off from crossing the road and creating new erosion. Surface water flow will be controlled by eliminating or formalizing channels that have formed over the years, and by minimizing areas of concentrated flow. Many of the channels that have formed are a result of poor drainage design and water being allowed to flow across the roads, as road failures have created localized low points concentrating water into a single point source.

The campground loops and campground parking spaces will be repaved with asphalt. Several road curves will need to be modified to accommodate the wider turning radii required by today's RVs to prevent the vehicles from driving off the road and damaging road shoulders and drainage ditches, as well as to accommodate emergency vehicle access and snow removal equipment. To accomplish this, six curves would be widened involving 600 linear feet of roadway to accommodate a 30-foot RV pulling a trailer. Any RV longer than 30 feet pulling a trailer would be required to park their trailer along the main campground road. This design would also account for a fire truck and snow removal equipment; the horizontal road alignment would not be affected. Road re-paving would

involve pulverizing the existing asphalt pavement, mixing it into the existing road base, and laying new asphalt to restore a smooth driving surface.

When the roads were originally built, tree stumps were paved over, causing the road to fail in several areas as the stumps decomposed; these stumps and roots will be removed. Stump removal will be limited to those impacting the road, and removals necessary to grade campsite pads and parking areas.

Resource Protection:

Some campsites in Loops B, C, and D encroach on sensitive resources, as campsites in Loop B are located within an archeological site and encroach on sensitive archeological resources and a few sites in Loops B and C encroach on sensitive meadow vegetation. The park proposes to remove 9 campsites out of these areas. When sites are removed the picnic table, fire ring, and bear locker would be removed. The paved parking spur would be removed as well, and the area would undergo revegetation with native plants. Of the sites removed for resource protection, all 9 would be replaced by expanding existing single sites into double occupancy sites, based on which existing sites have sufficient space to accommodate the extra living and parking space required. Overall, the campground capacity will not be significantly impacted, as 93 of 102 sites would remain available for camping. The number of campers the campground can accommodate would remain unchanged.

Presently, the Loop C entrance road traverses through an archeological site. During the proposed work to re-pave the road, the park proposes to elevate a 100-foot section of the road, so that the installation of the culvert will have no impacts to the archeological resources in the area. The road would be elevated 36 inches (at the highest point) above the current grade to accommodate the 24-inch culvert, which would be installed with no vertical ground disturbance. The existing road will be pulverized in place, and fill material brought in to avoid subgrade disturbance of any archeological features.

Barriers would be placed in vulnerable areas of the campground loops to discourage visitors from trampling sensitive meadow vegetation. The barriers would be made of native logs from tree removal activities. Logs will be placed on top of native ground and would require minimum ground disturbance. Signs would be placed along the barriers to educate visitors on the natural history of the area and on the value of meadow ecosystems. Signs would be made of metal, mounted on pressure treated posts. Pressure-treated wooden barrier posts and boulders will be installed to limit-off road vehicle travel and limit vehicle parking to appropriate areas, as compatible with original campground design.

Campsite Restoration and Improvement:

The number of campsites will remain similar to what currently exists in campground loops B, C, and D; however, a few campsites would be removed, and a few campsites would be made into double sites. The project would improve and establish campsite definition at the 93 campsites in loops B, C, and D. The park would re-grade campsites, improve walkways by formalizing existing social trails, replace campground furnishings, perform re-vegetation of bare areas, and replace campsite number signage in-kind in the same location, or an alternate location that would minimize the likelihood of damage. Where possible, the park would reduce individual campsite footprints and site limits established using vegetation, as well as natural barriers such as logs and rocks/boulders (as sites have sprawled and lost their individual definition over time). The park would install pressure-treated wood bollards and use asphalt paving to define parking areas for each campsite. Each campsite currently includes a minimum of one parking space. Two parking spaces per site is preferred and will be accommodated where feasible. The park proposes to formalize parking that would accommodate two cars at 27 campsites.

The park would construct a 5-car overflow parking area off the main campground road. The park would also construct 2 small overflow parking areas along loop C (each would accommodate 4 cars). Grading will extend up to 10 feet on all sides of each parking area. Each single campsite has a capacity of 6 people, and each double campsite has a capacity of 12 people. At campsite capacity, it is very unlikely that all campers arrive in a single vehicle, which is why overflow parking areas are needed.

Camping pads and other areas with severe erosion will be regraded to restore and better define sites. It is anticipated that some grading activity will need to occur at each campsite, based on the existing eroded nature of the campground. Tent pads will be graded to establish a relatively flat camping area (graded to <2% grade). The

park would regrade 93 sites to create level areas (less than 2% slope) for tent pads and camping space. These grading activities would involve cutting and filling the existing grade to level the campsite pads, as well as short dry rock stack retaining walls where pad grades cannot be reasonably tied into existing grades. The park would construct dry rock stack retaining walls with locally sourced boulders.

The park would also add paved walkways leading from the campground road to the comfort stations, and around the exterior of the comfort stations as part of the accessibility upgrades, which requires a hardened, durable surface. All walkways will be 4-inch thick concrete and 5 feet wide. Vertical depth of disturbance will be 1 foot below grade, with tie-in grading approximately 5 feet from each side. One 5-foot wide non-accessible path to the southern comfort station in Loop D will be constructed out of native soil and will include wooden steps to give an established path to the comfort station. Vertical depth of disturbance will be 1 foot below grade, with tie-in grading approximately 5 feet from each side. Each spigot would be retrofitted with a 6-foot by 6-foot, 4-inch thick concrete pad and have drain gravel added on the downslope side. Vertical depth of disturbance will be 1', with tie-in grading extending 5' on all sides. In Loop D, a new spigot would be added to restore the water spigot.

An earthen trail is also proposed in Loop D, that would lead from the loop road to the west to the southernmost comfort station. The trail would be 5 feet wide and made of compacted native soil.

The project would replace campground furnishings (bear boxes, fire pits, tables). Fire pits would be replaced within 20 feet of their existing location, on grade, requiring no additional soil disturbance. New fire pits would be of the same scale, setting, and general design as the existing fire pits.

The park would revegetate bare soil with native plants where pedestrian and vehicles have trampled existing vegetation or resulted in inappropriate areas of bare ground; temporary caging/fencing and/or signs may be required to allow plants to re-establish. The park proposes to protect existing sensitive meadow vegetation in close proximity to the campground by the adding educational signage, that would include messaging to stay out of the meadow.

The park would add 4 dumpster pads along the main campground access road near loops A, B, and E. Currently at Crane Flat Campground, dumpsters are placed along the side of the main road at Crane Flat Campground. At the end of the season, all the dumpsters get moved to the end of the road near Loop E and get replaced along the main road when the campground opens. The placing of the dumpsters is not always in the same place, causing loss of vegetation along the road. Creating paved dumpster pads keeps the dumpsters in the same location and minimizes vegetative impacts along the road. The number of dumpsters will remain the same, as this is sufficient for the campground's needs.

Accessibility Improvements:

The park proposes to upgrade 10 campsites in total throughout the campground to meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (AABAS) standards; this number includes a percentage of each of the different types of campsites available at Crane Flat Campground. Crane Flat accommodates both RV with tent and tent-only camping, including 77 RV with tent, and 89 tent only sites. Following ABAAS standards based on the number of each type of campsite, the minimum number of camping units with mobility features required is 5 RV with tent and 5 tent only, bring the total number of accessible sites to 10. Although during Phase I consultation we anticipated that all accessibility upgrades would be made in loops B, C, and D, based on the existing grades, with further investigation we have determined that 3 sites in loop E can support accessible campsites. In addition, a recent topography study of campsites in loop B, C, and D supports the ability for 18 campsites in these loops to be made accessible, although at this point the park has not determined exactly which eight sites will be selected for accessibility improvements. Sites will be selected during final design and will be spread throughout the campground as much as possible. Terrain and the amount of grading are criteria that will be considered to select the sites. Flatter sites are more favorable because less grading is required, which decreases the amount of disturbance. Steeper sites may require stepped features, which are not accessible. Upgrades would include grading a larger area for the tent pad and living space (a typical campsite ranges from 200 SF of living area to 500 SF, whereas accessible campsite can be as large as 1,000 SF for a single accessible site, and 1,200 SF for a double accessible site), provision of accessible parking (approximately 24 feet wide by 21 feet long), and the installation of accessible bear boxes, picnic tables, and double ringed fire pits. Accessible campsites allow a minimum of 48 inches of level clear space in front of the bear box, 48 inches around the fire pit, 36 inches around the picnic table,

and 36 inches around the tent pad. As long as minimum clear space is maintained around each feature, the clear space areas may overlap. Additionally, each accessible campsite will be graded to a 2% minimum and 3% maximum grade.

Furthermore, while not initially proposed in the phase I consultation, the park also proposes here (in phase II) to make an AABAS accessible path to each comfort station by constructing concrete paths to each comfort station from the loop road, as well as concrete paths around each comfort station and to the faucets. Each accessible concrete path will be 60 inches wide with a compacted 12-inch shoulder, and will require a vertical disturbance of 18 inches and a horizontal disturbance up to 36 inches off of each side for tie-in grading.

Project Locations:

Location			
County:	Mariposa	State:	CA

CE Citation: C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

CE Justification: Project will rehabilitate the Crane Flat Campground, a property that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a Mission 66 resource.

Extraordinary Circumstances: NA

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	Date:	March 9, 2021
	Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent		

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?	NA	No longer applicable per 2020 CEQ regulations and DOI direction.

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:	Rehabilitate Crane Flat Campground - Phase 2: Loops B/C/D & AABAS Accessibility Upgrades
PEPC Project Number:	92886
Project Type:	Repair/Rehabilitation (REHAB)
Project Location:	
County, State:	Mariposa, California
Project Leader:	Matthew Outhier

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, invasive plants</i>	Potential	Issue: Ground disturbance may lead to the introduction/establishment of invasive plants. Impact: Follow resource protection measures to prevent invasive plants.
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat <i>Special status raptors occur in area; project area is Fisher habitat</i>	Potential	Issue: Construction activities may disturb special status raptors or listed Fisher. Impact: Follow resource protections with regard to sensitive time windows to protect special status species from disturbance. Consult with USFWS regarding fisher and follow stipulations outlined in Biological Opinion.
Biological Vegetation <i>Native vegetation</i>	Potential	Issue: Native vegetation has been denuded in many areas of the campground due to visitor trampling and lack of parking/campsite delineation features. Impact: Positive impact to native vegetation by re-establishing delineating features and planning of native vegetation.

Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species <i>Wildlife habitat</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Project activities may have short term impacts to wildlife habitat. Erosion is an existing issue in the campground that will be addressed by the project</p> <p>Impact: Follow resource protections to avoid short term impacts from construction to wildlife habitat. Project will have long-term benefits to wildlife habitat by reducing erosion, better protecting the meadow, and re-establishing native vegetation in the campground.</p>
Cultural Archeological Resources <i>Archeological Resources</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Soil disturbance has the potential to disturb unknown archeological resources. Project is located within an Archeological District. No work for phase I is planned within archeological sites.</p> <p>Impact: Follow resource protection measures with regard to inadvertent discoveries to protect archeological resources. Phase II compliance will be completed after archeological surveys and SHPO consultation are complete.</p>
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures <i>Crane Flat Campground</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Crane Flat Campground is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a Mission 66 resource.</p> <p>Impact: Follow resource protections to avoid adverse impacts to the eligible property and preserve/restore features that contribute to its significance, as reported in the Determination of Eligibility.</p>
Geological Geologic Features	None	
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightscapes Lightscapes	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational <i>Campground Operations</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Construction will have temporary, short-term impacts to campground operations where loops will be closed when construction occurs.</p> <p>Impact: Minimize construction time and sequence project implementation to minimize impacts to campground operations.</p>
Other Other	None	

Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes <i>Soundscape</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Construction will have temporary, short-term impacts to soundscape due to operation of heavy machinery when construction occurs.</p> <p>Impact: Minimize construction time and sequence project implementation to minimize impacts to soundscape.</p>
Viewsheds Viewsheds <i>Viewshed</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Construction will have temporary, short-term impacts to viewsheds due to operation of heavy machinery when construction occurs. Campground is heavily eroded and denuded of vegetation, which degrades the viewshed.</p> <p>Impact: Minimize construction time and sequence project implementation to minimize temporary impacts to soundscape. The project will have a long-term benefit to viewshed by improving campsite privacy, reducing erosion, restoring native vegetation, and decreasing impacts to the adjacent meadows.</p>
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources <i>Campground availability</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Construction is anticipated to occur from April to October 2021, which would close the campground to visitor use entirely for that year.</p> <p>Impact: Construction will have temporary, short-term impacts to campsite availability, as sites/loops will be closed when construction occurs.</p>
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience <i>Visitor Experience</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Construction is anticipated to occur from April to October 2021, which would close the campground to visitor use entirely for that year. Construction was initially planned to be sequenced by each loop, however this would degrade the visitor experience in proximal loops and could pose additional safety issues and operational complexities. For these reasons, the park has decided that consolidating construction to one summer closure (versus subsequent loop closures each summer) was selected as the option that would minimize perturbations to visitor experience.</p> <p>Impact: Construction will have temporary, short-term impacts to visitor experience, as sites/loops will be closed when construction occurs.</p>
Water Floodplains	None	

Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity <i>Wetlands</i>	Potential	<p>Issue: Wetland meadows are located adjacent to the project area. The campground has developed multiple erosion gullies that transport sediments. Visitors have often trampled meadow vegetation and some campsites are encroaching into the meadow. The project proposes to add barriers and educational signs near the meadows that will reduce meadow trampling, as well as relocating/moving some campsites so that the meadow is not encroached upon.</p> <p>Impact: The project will overall improve wetlands by better protecting meadows and by reducing erosion/sediment runoff and improving drainage features. The project will implement resource protections to prevent construction impacts to wetlands and follow stipulations of all relevant permits.</p>
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Rehabilitate Crane Flat Campground - Phase 2: Loops B/C/D & AABAS Accessibility Upgrades

Prepared by: Ninette Daniele **Date Prepared:** 10/13/2020 **Telephone:** (209) 379-1457

PEPC Project Number: 92886

Locations:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Describe project: See Categorical exclusion

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

The area of potential effects (APE) includes the Crane Flat Campground, including the campsites and loop roads. The area is forested so project visibility is limited to the immediate vicinity of the work.

The vertical APE will be associated with the ground disturbance associated with road/site grading, paving, trenching, installation of culverts, and replacement of fire rings. The subsurface vertical APE is estimated to be 6 inches of cut or fill, but in rare cases, may reach 48 inches for cut and 24 inches for fill in the most extreme instances. The use of cut or fill exceeding 6 inches, but less than 48 inches for cut and less than 24 inches for fill. The subsurface vertical APE associated with paving operations is estimated to be 15 inches. The subsurface vertical APE for trenches associated with culverts is estimated to be 64 inches for a 24-inch culvert, and 58 inches for an 18-inch culvert. Tree stump removals will require deeper subsurface vertical APE estimated to be 60 inches.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Source or reference:

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

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

Property Name: Crane Flat Archeological District **LCS:**

Archeological Resources Notes: The project area was surveyed in 1975, 1984, 2018, and 2019, with archeological sites CA-MRP-0141, -0142, and -0720H identified.

- CA-MRP-0141: Large prehistoric site that covers the junction of the roads that lead to the 400 (Loop D) and 500 (Loop E) loops of the campground. Contains surface and subsurface intact and significant components. No ground

disturbance is planned within or adjacent to the site boundaries.

- CA-MRP-0142: Large prehistoric site that covers much of the 200 loop of the campground. Contains surface and subsurface intact and significant components.

Ground disturbance within the site boundaries is anticipated to be limited to paved areas and will not extend below the existing 30-cm (8-inch) depth of existing asphalt and compacted road base that does not contain cultural materials.

- CA-MRP-0720H: Series of historical logging railroads, branch lines, spurs, and some historical refuse. The project will not disturb this resource.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Historical Structures/Resources Notes: Crane Flat Campground has been assessed recently with a finding of eligible; the DOE will be sent to SHPO for review/comment and concurrence.

Cultural Landscapes Present: No

Ethnographic Resources Present: Yes

Ethnographic Resources Notes: Project was included in the November 2019 monthly project spreadsheet distributed to the traditionally associated American Indian Tribes. No comments were received.

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

Yes	Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
Yes	Replace historic features/elements in kind
Yes	Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
Yes	Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
Yes	Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
No	Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
No	Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
Yes	Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
No	Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
No	Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
No	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: Hope Schear

Date: 03/05/2021

Comments: Compliance complete. No comments received from tribal partners and SHPO concurrence received 3/5/2021.

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: Please see archaeologist comments for monitoring recommendations.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] **Anthropologist**

Name: Liz Williams

Date: 10/14/2020

Comments: Please refer to archeologist comments.

No comments received from tribes.

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: Same as archeologist.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] **Archeologist**

Name: Wesley Wills

Date: 10/13/2020

Comments: The project area was surveyed in 1975, 1984, 2018, and 2019, with archeological sites CA-MRP-0141, -0142, and -0720H identified.

CA-MRP-0141: Large prehistoric site that covers the junction of the roads that lead to the 400 (Loop D) and 500 (Loop E) loops of the campground. Contains surface and subsurface intact and significant components. No ground disturbance is planned within or adjacent to the site boundaries.

CA-MRP-0142: Large prehistoric site that covers much of the 200 loop of the campground. Contains surface and subsurface intact and significant components. Ground disturbance within the site boundaries is anticipated to be limited to paved areas and will not extend below the existing 30-cm (8-inch) depth of existing asphalt and compacted road base that does not contain intact or significant cultural materials.

CA-MRP-0720H: Series of historical logging railroads, branch lines, spurs, and some historical refuse. The project will not disturb this resource.

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: Archeological monitoring is recommended for implementation of the project within and adjacent to CA-MRP-0141 and -0142, particularly ground-disturbing actions in Loop B.

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 10/27/2020

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 Landscape Architect

Name: Vida Germano

Date: 10/19/2020

Comments: This project as currently designed will have no adverse effect to the campground. The project rehabilitates the campground and preserves the character-defining features of the historic district, including those listed in the DOE:

Site/Setting

- Gently sloping terrain surrounded by dense conifer trees as well as large open meadows to the east and south
- Asphalt-paved loop roads (repaved in-kind)
- Individual campsites with amenities (the amenities themselves are not historic)
- Pull-in/spur type parking stalls (some original loop stalls may also be present)
- Wood barrier posts at parking and campsites

Campground Comfort Stations

- One-story height
- Rectangular plan
- Low-pitched gable roofs with exposed purlins and wide eaves that form prowls at the gable ends
- Brown-tinted CMU walls laid in a stacked bond pattern
- Grouped metal hopper and fixed clerestory windows
- Flush metal doors
- Wood privacy screens at restroom entrances

Campfire Circle

- Semi-circular shape
- Four sections of bench seating on asphalt paving
- Wood benches supported by metal legs
- Circular stone fire pit and small concrete and stone stage

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, Historian, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

	No Potential to Cause Effects
	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: Jan 13, 2021

SHPO Received: Mar 5, 2021

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: Nov 19, 2020

THPO Received: NA

SHPO/THPO Notes: No comments from tribes.

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes: NA

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:

- The project manager shall ensure that project personnel (managers, supervisors, and staff) attend a resources protection briefing given by NPS Resources Management and Sciences Division (RMS) staff prior to working on site to become familiar with statutory and contractual environmental requirements and protection measures for archeological sites, sensitive habitats, water resources, and wildlife. Required topics include proper storage and disposal of food/trash, behavior around wildlife, protection of cultural resources, avoidance of introduction of exotic plants, and protections for any listed or sensitive species. Contractors will watch the "Working in Yosemite" video. The project manager is responsible for coordinating educational training with RMS well ahead of the anticipated project implementation.
- Only project actions described in PEPC 92886 are approved for implementation. Modifications to plans or additional actions require additional review and approval from the Yosemite National Park Environmental Planning and Compliance Office.
- Archeological and tribal monitoring are required and shall be funded by the project account; coordinate with the park Cultural Resources Program Manager well ahead of planned project implementation to schedule and coordinate cultural monitoring. Project actions shall not take place within sites marked for avoidance by park Archeologists or Cultural Resources staff.
- If previously unknown cultural resources are encountered, the project manager shall temporarily suspend work in the immediate area and contact the Cultural Resource Program Manager who will evaluate and determine appropriate action to protect resources, which could include consultation with appropriate parties (e.g., tribes, SHPO). Although not expected, should previously unknown American Indian burial sites be discovered, the Cultural Resource Program Manager will provide direction to follow provisions Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act requirements.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes: NA

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

NHPA Specialist Erin Davenport for Hope Schear **Date:** March 9, 2021
Hope Schear

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:** March 9, 2021
Cicely Muldoon, 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: 92886

Project Title: Rehabilitate Crane Flat Campground - Phase 2: Loops B/C/D & AABAS Accessibility Upgrades

Project Type: Repair/Rehabilitation

Project Location:

County, State: Mariposa, CA

Project Leader: Matthew Outhier

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? Yes

If species in area: Not Likely to Adversely Affect

Was Biological Assessment prepared? Yes

Sent to FWS: Jan 14, 2021

FWS Response: Jan 27, 2021

Sent to NMFS:

NMFS Response:

If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred? Yes

Formal Consultation required? Yes

Formal Consultation Notes:

The USFWS concurred with the park's determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" for the impacts that this project may have on the fisher. Please see the BO, as well as the concurrence letter that amends the limited operation period, for this project specifically, attached in PEPC.

Formal Consultation Concluded: Jan 27, 2021

Any State listed Species in the Project Area? Yes

Consultation Information: Great gray owls are known to nest near the project area. By following mitigations and avoiding nest buffers negative impacts will be limited.

General Notes: The following protections have been included for special status wildlife:

Fisher:

- Project activities involving noise above ambient levels (tree removal, heavy equipment operation, generator use, paving, grading, etc.) will NOT occur during the limited operation period of March 1 to June 1 annually.
- Staff shall follow posted speed limits while traveling in the park and reduce their speed by an additional 5 miles per hour during dusk and dawn. On-site (defined as the campground access roads) speeds must be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- The Park wildlife biologist will teach work crews how to identify fisher, den trees, and other important habitat components that, if feasible, should be retained. If a fisher is observed at a work site, work in that area will be immediately stopped and a wildlife biologist will be immediately notified. Work may resume when the fisher is observed leaving the area or a wildlife biologist confirms work may resume.
- Large diameter trees and California black oaks (>20 inches DBH), will be retained and protected when possible. When possible, the project will maintain and enhance habitat

heterogeneity within and between core habitat areas. If possible, the project will maintain and enhance cover between habitat patches to allow for connectivity.

- Any temporary fencing shall allow for the safe passage of fishers. Any pipes, water tanks, or trenches will be capped, screened, or fitted with escape ramps if they cannot be closed each night to avoid entrapment of wildlife.

Food Storage and Garbage Disposal:

- All food, toiletries, drinks, scented items, and food containers must be placed in on-site food lockers provided by the project manager or Contractor. Food lockers must remain closed and latched, unless items are within arms-reach of an awake person. Between sunset and sunrise, no food or food containers may be stored in vehicles. During daylight hours, food and food containers may be left in the car but must be hidden from view with vehicle windows completely closed. Food and food containers must not be left in the bed of a truck or in a vehicle with windows open at any time unless an awake person is within arm's reach.
- The project manager or Contractor must designate an employee to monitor the work site daily for food and food containers. All waste must be picked up and disposed of in the bear-proof receptacles. The monitor must walk the job site at the end of each day and check for garbage, food, and food-related items remaining at the site and put them in a bear-proof receptacles. All windows and doors in recreational vehicles or trailers used for lodging or office space must be closed and latched when not occupied. Proper food storage is important to the welfare of the bear population and is required by law. Project staff must call (209) 372-0322 to report overflowing trash containers, improperly stored food, or bear sightings. All construction dumpsters must be specifically approved by the park Wildlife Management Program.

Owl Protections:

- Project staff are to be aware of the potential for owls to be present in the vicinity (if owls are seen, please contact the park Terrestrial Ecologist at 209-379-1435).
- The project manager will limit the effects of light and noise on adjacent habitat through controls on construction equipment. Work shall only occur during daylight hours, between 30 minutes after dawn and 30 minutes before dusk.
- Coordinate with the wildlife biologist to identify any nest trees. Tree removal will not occur within 50 feet of known nest trees. Project activities can disrupt nesting and shall be implemented outside of the nesting season (March 1-July 31); if this is unavoidable, the Terrestrial Ecologist will be consulted well ahead of work commencing. In this case, an NPS biologist will need to conduct owl surveys starting in March. If an active nest is detected, no activities will occur within 0.25 miles of the nest site.

Data Entered By:	Heather Mackey	Date:	Nov 20, 2020
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ESA Mitigations

Mitigation ID	Text
108389	<p>Fisher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project activities involving noise above ambient levels (tree removal, heavy equipment operation, generator use, paving, grading, etc.) will NOT occur during the limited operation period of March 1 to June 1 annually. • Staff shall follow posted speed limits while traveling in the park and reduce their speed by an additional 5 miles per hour during dusk and dawn. On-site (defined as the campground access roads) speeds must be limited to 15 miles per hour. • The Park wildlife biologist will teach work crews how to identify fisher, den trees, and other important habitat components that, if feasible, should be retained. If a fisher is observed at a work site, work in that area will be immediately stopped and a wildlife biologist will be immediately notified. Work may resume when the fisher is observed leaving the area or a wildlife biologist confirms work may resume. • Large diameter trees and California black oaks (>20 inches DBH), will be retained and protected when possible. When possible, the project will maintain and enhance

	<p>habitat heterogeneity within and between core habitat areas. If possible, the project will maintain and enhance cover between habitat patches to allow for connectivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any temporary fencing shall allow for the safe passage of fishers. Any pipes, water tanks, or trenches will be capped, screened, or fitted with escape ramps if they cannot be closed each night to avoid entrapment of wildlife.
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Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

Question	Yes	No	Details
A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area?		No	Not in floodplain or flash flood hazard area.
A.2. Is Project in wetlands as defined by NPS/DOI?		No	Not in wetland as defined by NPS/DOI.
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?	Yes		
H. Any other permits required?		No	Permit Information:
Other Information:			Consulted with park ACOE/Wetland Botanist (Lisa Acree) determined that no fill in wetlands or WOTUS are being undertaken by Phase II work; no ACOW or State Clean Water Act permits are required.
Data Entered By:	Ninette Daniele		Date: Oct 30, 2020

Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations: NA

Wilderness

Question	Yes	No	
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?		No	
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?		No	

C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?		No	
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	
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)		No	
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: Completed Date: Approved Date:
Other Information: Project reviewed by park Wilderness Manager (Mark Fincher). No wilderness exists in project area.			
Data Entered By:	Ninette Daniele	Date:	Oct 30, 2020

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

Question	Yes	No
C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?		No
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:

Project will achieve ABAA Standards through proposed renovations.

Data Entered By:	Ninette Daniele	Date:	Oct 30, 2020
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