



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: Garrett Dickman, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2022-142 Scenic Vista Management Work Plan- 2022-2023 (PEPC: 107716)

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 has been assessed as “likely to adversely affect” the California red-legged frog and is being placed under the 2018 California Red Legged Frog Biological Opinion (BO) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The effect determination means that while it is possible that the project may impact a few individuals, it will not result in a magnitude of impact that would jeopardize the species at the population or species level. All protection measures contained in the BO will be applied to minimize potential effects to the species. The project will have no effect on the Fisher. The project will have no effect on other 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:

Cultural Resources

- Integrate archeologist into project implementation and identify archeological site boundaries prior to implementation and identify priority sites for fuel reduction efforts.
- Archeologist will monitor work within sensitive archeological sites. Removal of fuels within site boundaries for resources that have the potential to be disturbed by these actions [REDACTED] will involve methods that minimize or do not include ground disturbance.
- Associated site protection actions include moving slash outside of site boundaries, identifying locations within site boundaries that do not contain cultural materials that can be treated with heavy equipment,

chipping and hauling slash instead of piling, and removing fuels from on top of and adjacent to features and concentrations of artifacts. These methods are implemented on a site-by-site basis to ensure no adverse effect to archeological sites.

Wildlife

The work of this project will be placed under the California red-legged frog (CRLF) Biological Opinion and will have a Likely to Adversely Affect determination; all provisions of the BO must be followed. Specific actions from the BO that will protect CRLF are:

- If CRLF are discovered in the work area, work must stop in the vicinity (within 500 feet of the CRLF) and the park Aquatic Ecologist must be contacted immediately (209-379-1438). Staff may not relocate, handle, or disturb in any way a CRLF. Work may resume at the direction of the Aquatic Ecologist.
- Project staff working on the project will be advised to follow park speed limits, reducing their speed and increasing their awareness during warm, wet/rainy conditions to avoid vehicle strikes of CRLF and other wildlife.
- Work in red-legged frog habitat (generally in Yosemite Valley) will be avoided after periods of heavy rain (1/2" in 24 hours) and will occur during dry portions of the year (June to October), when frogs are most likely to be located in aquatic habitat. Pile construction will be avoided to the extent possible to prevent creation of sink habitat. All workers will attend a wildlife protection briefing from the Aquatic Program focused on the identification and protection of listed species
- Minimize use of heavy equipment in natural areas; go in and out if they must drive into areas for work. Avoid turning in natural areas.
- Tree material removed should be preferentially chipped in areas within 100 feet of aquatic habitat. If chipping is not feasible, materials needing to be piled/burned should be piled outside of meadows and piles should be located 100 feet or more from aquatic habitats (rivers, streams, ponds, meadows). Any piles constructed should be burned as soon as possible, preferably within 6 months - as the piles can attract wildlife, including CRLF, who may use them as refugia. Piles not burned within 1 year of construction will need to be de-constructed and re-built before burning.
- Staff will avoid work activities in areas within 100 feet of aquatic habitats in Yosemite Valley [REDACTED], when CRLF often make terrestrial forays into surrounding forest or upland areas surrounding aquatic habitats.
- The project will be timed to coincide dry portions of the year (late summer to fall) within time frames when CRLF are most likely to be occupying aquatic habitats and less likely to be occupying terrestrial habitat.
- All staff working on the project will attend a resource protection briefing given by Aquatic Wildlife Staff, which will detail protection measures and species identification. Educational talk by Aquatic Wildlife Biologist is required- please schedule no later than 2 weeks before work start, this would need to happen for both tree felling/piling crews, as well as pile burning crews.

Other Wildlife

- If the project occurs between May 1st and August 15th, trees must be surveyed by a qualified biologist for nesting migratory birds before removal or trimming. Once surveyed the project has 1 week to remove trees. If work is not completed within 1 week, trees must be resurveyed.

Vegetation

- Measures shall be taken to prevent the introduction of exotic species in the project area and staging areas. All earth moving equipment must enter the park free of dirt, dust, mud, seeds, or other potential contaminant. Examples of equipment that require inspection are excavators, skid steers, or boring equipment. Passenger vehicles do not need inspection but should be clean prior to entry in the park. Equipment exhibiting any dirt or other material attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts shall be thoroughly cleaned by the Contractor before entering the park. Areas inspected shall 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. The Contractor shall notify the Construction manager at least two workdays (not including weekends) prior to bringing any equipment into the park. Equipment found to have entered the park with potential contaminants will be removed from the park at the direction of the Contracting Officer at Contractor's sole expense. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Soil disturbance shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible to reduce disturbance to native plants and reduce the potential for the introduction or spread of invasive non-native plant species.
- Altered landforms shall be restored to natural conditions, which may require decompaction, recontouring, removal of fill, filling voids, treating areas of potential erosion, or bio-stabilization of riverbanks. Consult with Vegetation Branch early in project conception to determine and plan for ecological restoration needs.
- Compliance with food-storage and garbage disposal requirements must be achieved at all times.
- Track mats are required for driving vehicles and equipment into meadows.
Comment: snow cover or other types of protections listed in PEPC description are acceptable.
- Measures shall be taken to prevent the introduction of exotic species in the project area and staging areas. All earth moving equipment must enter the park free of dirt, dust, mud, seeds, or other potential contaminant. Examples of equipment that require inspection are excavators, skid steers, or boring equipment. Passenger vehicles do not need inspection but should be clean prior to entry in the park. Equipment exhibiting any dirt or other material attached to frame, tires, wheels, or other parts shall be thoroughly cleaned by the Contractor before entering the park. Areas inspected shall 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. The Contractor shall notify the Construction manager at least two workdays (not including weekends) prior to bringing any equipment into the park. Equipment found to have entered the park with potential contaminants will be removed from the park at the direction of the Contracting Officer at Contractor's sole expense. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- During project planning and design, consult with Vegetation staff to survey project area, including buffer zone and staging areas, for special status plant species. Avoid during design, and flag for construction avoidance. If disturbance can't be avoided, consult with Vegetation staff on mitigation measures.

Superintendent Signature: _____ Cicely Muldoon **Date:** _____ June 7, 2022

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: 2022/2023 Scenic Vista Management Work Plan

PEPC Project Number: 107716

Description of Action (Project Description):

The 2022 Scenic Vista Management work plan is tiered off the 2011 Finding of No Significance for the Scenic Vista Management Plan/EA (SVMP) (PEPC 23811), the 2014 Record of Decision for the Merced River Plan/EIS (MRP) (PEPC 18982) and the 2014 Record of Decision for the Tuolumne River Plan/EIS (TRP) (PEPC 14043).

All locations included were identified previously in these planning documents. This year we are proposing to work on several sites in Yosemite Valley, along Big Oak Flat Road, and Wawona Road between August and March. We do not anticipate completing all proposed vistas. More vistas are presented than can be completed to provide flexibility around concerns such as traffic, nesting season, resource availability, and fire danger. Several of the vistas will require removing additional trees to achieve full prescription than prescribed in the Merced River Plan; these are Leidig Meadow and Sentinel Boardwalk. We are taking a staged approach and will clear portions of the larger vistas but will spread the work over several years to gradually restore them. The workplan is spread over two years because work primarily occurs from autumn to early spring to avoid damage to sensitive vegetation and soils and disrupt sensitive nesting and denning seasons in the spring and early summer.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL SITES The following proposed site-specific work plans are within all guidelines set out in the Scenic Vista Management Plan environmental assessment Finding of No Significant Impact. Areas for tree removals are kept to a minimum and are within all set limits. There are numerous mitigations and protections to ensure effects of tree removal are minimized or eliminated. (See Resource Considerations, Implementation Considerations, Implementation, and Restoration below)

SAFETY Employee and visitor safety will be the highest priority during vista clearing operations. Tree felling operations will occur under the direction of the project manager and will follow all park safety protocols.

REVIEW Park subject matter specialists review the annual work plan to ensure any potential adverse impacts are avoided, and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.

TIMING Work is scheduled to minimize potential impacts on bird, plant, pacific fisher, and bat species. In general, August through March would be the best estimated time for vista clearing to take place, subject to site-specific conditions. All work that generates noise levels above 76 decibels near residential or visitor use areas will be performed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Temporary road closures will generally not exceed 15 minutes. Road closures will be scheduled in periods of low visitation when possible. Workers with signs will direct closures.

RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS Features with obvious high value to wildlife, such as snags (particularly those with evidence of wildlife use), very large diameter trees, oak trees, large diameter logs, and decaying wood will be preserved in place where possible. Work in pacific fisher habitat will only occur outside of the limited operating period and will follow guidance from biological opinion. Work in red-legged frog habitat will be avoided after periods of heavy rain (1/2" in 24 hours). Pile construction will be avoided to the extent possible to prevent creation of sink habitat. Special-status plant species habitat will be flagged and avoided. Equipment will be inspected before clearing activities commenced to ensure that machinery is clean and free of weed seed and

propagules. Within riparian corridors white alder trees (*Alnus rhombifolia*) will not be removed unless critical to restoring a vista of high or medium value. No removal of species in the willow family (*Salix*), including black cottonwood trees (*Populus balsamifera*) will occur. None of these species are proposed to be removed in, however, several trees may be trimmed. Several vista sites in the work plan are near riverbanks, but trees overhanging the water's edge will not be removed. No removal of in-stream downed large wood will occur. Old growth trees and trees older than the establishment date of a vista will not be removed. Cultural resource staff reviewed the work plan to avoid impacts to cultural resources from operations such as log or slash removal/disposal. An archeologist will direct crews away from archeological sites or will provide site specific mitigation measures to avoid disturbance.

IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS Biomass may be used or disposed of in any way that will not require additional compliance. This could be traditional cultural use, historic preservation projects, lop and scatter, onsite mulch, chip and haul, pile and burn, haul to woodlot, or contracted timber removal. Noise levels near residential or visitor use areas will be minimized. Work crews will avoid soil compaction or disturbance when operating trucks or heavy equipment in wet or compactable soils by distributing machinery weight with military landing mats, snow, heavy plywood, or alternatives. Operators will move tracked equipment straight in and out of work sites and avoid turning while off pavement. Disturbed soils will be rehabilitated by restoring slope contour and using other best practices. Specific vegetation that is a critical component of a cultural landscape will not be removed, including black oak. Vehicles will contain equipment for the prevention and cleanup of spills. Any necessary temporary fuel storage and staging areas will be flagged, signed, and monitored. Work crews will use safe and environmentally friendly fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluid, and other fluids.

IMPLEMENTATION Stumps will be ground down, or flush cut, ground down or buried with debris to hide the obvious cut appearance. Larger stumps may have habitat value, and some may be retained if the stump does not appear to be cut and is in keeping with the surrounding area. Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep. Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.

RESTORATION ACTIONS Mitigate all impacts associated with the cutting and removal of targeted trees by scarifying compacted soils and mulching disturbed areas with native forest litter except in culturally sensitive areas. Collect native grass and forb seed in late summer and early fall, as appropriate by species. Reseed any impacted areas upon completion of all forestry management actions.

CONTINUED MAINTENANCE Evaluate and maintain site vistas every three years. Maintenance may include felling trees up to 6" dbh.

Mitigation(s):

See Letter of Compliance Complete

CE Citation: 3.3.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: The 2022 Scenic Vista Management work plan is tiered off the 2011 Finding of No Significance for the Scenic Vista Management Plan/EA (SVMP) (PEPC 23811), the 2014 Record of Decision for the Merced River Plan/EIS (MRP) (PEPC 18982) and the 2014 Record of Decision for the Tuolumne River Plan/EIS (TRP) (PEPC 14043).

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 Signature: Cicely Muldoon **Date:** June 7, 2022

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Explanation
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	NPS staff will follow all tree removal safety protocol during the removal process to protect themselves and the public.
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	This project removes lodgepole pine growing in Tuolumne Meadows. The project will protect visitor experience, viewsheds, soil, water holding capacity, and the cultural landscape.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	No
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	Removal of conifers now, while small, will provide managers opportunities in the future to implement other restoration techniques to increase soil moisture making future restoration efforts even more successful.
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	Scenic vista clearing does not set precedents nor represent a decision in principle. Tree removal to protect viewsheds is an action that has been reviewed and supported by three separate compliance documents: Merced River Plan (EIS), Tuolumne River Plan (EIS), and Scenic Vista Management (EA).
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	This project will have no adverse effects on historic properties.
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	None
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	This project has been assessed for all federal, state, local and tribal laws and found to comply.
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	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	This project was included on the April Tribal Spreadsheet and distributed to the associated Native American groups for consultation. No potential project impacts to sacred or sensitive sites, locales, or landscapes were identified. There are no recorded ethnographic areas within the APE. While there are archeological sites within the project area, there is expected to be no adverse effect.
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	This project removes native trees that are encroaching on culturally significant viewsheds but will not introduce non-native invasive species or noxious weeds.



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2022/2023 Scenic Vista Management Work Plan

PEPC Project Number: 107716

Project Type: Resource Management (RM)

Project Location: Various Sites in Yosemite

County, State: Mariposa, California & Tuolumne, California

Project Leader: Garrett Dickman

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

See Categorical Exclusion form

C. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality <i>Air in project area</i>	Potential	Issue: Dust, Exhaust Impact: Negligible Effects
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	None
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	Potential	See Other Compliance
Biological Vegetation	Potential	See Other Compliance
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species <i>Red Legged Frog</i>	Likely	See Other Compliance
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	Issue: There are many known archeological sites located in the vicinity of the proposed work locations. See Assessment of Effect for details. Impact: Follow cultural resource protections outlined to avoid impacts to archeological resources. Archeologist will work closely with project managers to identify site boundaries and provide buffers for avoidance and site treatment measures to avoid adverse impacts.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Cultural Landscapes <i>Historic Viewshed</i>	Potential	Issue: Invasive trees have grown to block historic viewsheds Impact: Project will have positive impacts to the cultural landscape in that removal of conifers restores the historic viewshed.
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	None
Cultural Museum Collections	None	None
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	None	None
Geological Geologic Features	None	None
Geological Geologic Processes	None	None
Lightsapes	None	None
Other Human Health and Safety	None	None
Other Operational	None	None
Other	None	None
Paleontological Paleontological Resources	None	None
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	None
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	None
Socioeconomic	None	None
Soundscapes	None	None
Viewsheds <i>Historic Viewsheds</i>	Potential	Issue: Historic viewsheds have been blocked by tree encroachment Impact: This project will restore viewsheds improving visitor experience.
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	None
Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	Issue: Historic viewsheds have been blocked by tree encroachment Impact: This project will restore viewsheds improving visitor experience.
Water Floodplains	None	None
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	None
Water Water Quality or Quantity	None	None

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Water Wetlands	None	None
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	None
Wilderness	None	None



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

See **Categorical Exclusion form**

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

Source or reference: Many- See Project Review Form

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

Archeological Resources Present: Yes

Archeological Resources Notes: Multiple archeological sites are in proposed work [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The archeological sites within the work areas are listed in the attached Project Review Form.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: No

Cultural Landscapes Present: Yes

Property Name: Yosemite Village Historic District **LCS:**

Property Name: Yosemite Valley Historic District **LCS:**

Property Name: Yosemite Valley Archeological District **LCS:**

Ethnographic Resources Present: Yes

Ethnographic Resources Notes: Several known ethnographic areas are within the proposed work areas. The known ethnographic resources within the work areas are shown on the attached APE maps.

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

Yes/No	The proposed action will...
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)
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: 05/05/2022

Comments: Compliance complete. No HA required. The actions as described in the 2022 workplan fit under YOSE PA category 5. Tribes consulted through the April 2022 TSS and no concerns, comments, or objections were received within the 30-day review period.

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 follow all specialist's recommendations.

Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist

Name: Hope Schear

Date: 05/05/2022

Comments: Tribes consulted through April 2022 Tribal Project Spreadsheet. No comments, concerns, or objections received within 30-day review period.

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: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Erin Gearty

Date: 03/14/2022

Comments: Various archeological survey projects have occurred in the proposed work areas. The APE maps created for this project include the work completed on the Yosemite Valley scenic vistas, sites 16, 17, and 19-26 in the work plan. Scenic vista sites 1-15 in the work plan are covered in biomass removal project PEPC 104171. Scenic vista sites 27-29 on the work plan are covered in Tuolumne Meadows conifer removal project PEPC 107719. Multiple archeological sites are in proposed work areas [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As with this project and others related to fuel management, such as biomass and hazard tree removal and prescribed burns, the Branch of Anthropology coordinates with project managers to identify site boundaries and provide buffers for avoidance. Site locations are conveyed through face-to-face interaction, monthly meetings, and shared spatial data on secured mobile devices. In other instances, archeologists have teamed with crews to identify locations within site boundaries that would benefit from vegetation management/fuel reduction actions, particularly removing fallen trees on the site surface. These fuels, when burned, increase the intensity and duration of fire on the site surface, which increases potential damage to cultural materials. To reduce this risk, archeologists identify treatment areas and specify methods for reducing ground disturbance

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: Integrate archeologist into project implementation and identify archeological site boundaries prior to implementation. Archeologist will monitor work within sensitive archeological sites. Removal of trees within site boundaries for resources that have the potential to be disturbed by these actions [REDACTED] will involve methods that minimize or do not include ground disturbance. Associated site protection actions include moving slash outside of site boundaries, identifying locations within site boundaries that do not contain cultural materials that can be treated with heavy equipment, chipping and hauling slash instead of piling, and removing fuels from on top of and adjacent to features and concentrations of artifacts. These methods are implemented on a site by site basis to ensure no adverse effect to archeological sites. Even though there are no recorded archeological sites within the APEs for Illihoette Fall View, Vernal Fall footbridge, and southeast of Yosemite Lodge, because the survey for these areas is not recent, the archeological monitor should visit these work areas to ensure there are no archeological features that will be impacted by this project.

Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: Richard Freitas

Date: 03/16/2022

Comments: No adverse effect. The management actions appear to be thorough and well thought out regarding operational procedures. Species of significant value to the cultural landscape, including black oaks and fruit trees, are not specified for removal.

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: Recommend prioritizing work at vistas that are designated High priority and have trees >40" dbh slated for removal. The goal is to remove the larger trees before the smaller ones jump to the next size class(as happened at Leidig Meadow East) and establish a character of large-stature trees at a location.

Doc Method: Park Specific or Other Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

Select with X	Assessment of Effect
n/a	No Potential to Cause Effects
n/a	No Historic Properties Affected
X	No Adverse Effect
n/a	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:
SHPO Received:

THPO Required: Yes
THPO Sent: April Tribal Spreadsheet 4/2/2022
THPO Received: No comments, concerns or objections received after 30 days

SHPO/THPO Notes:

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 work described in PEPC 104171 is approved for implementation. Any changes to the scope of work will require additional review by the Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch.
- Integrate archeologist into project implementation and identify archeological site boundaries prior to implementation and identify priority sites for fuel reduction efforts. Archeologist will monitor work within sensitive archeological sites. Removal of trees within site boundaries for resources that have the potential to be disturbed by these actions [REDACTED] will involve methods that minimize or do not include ground disturbance. Associated site protection actions include moving slash outside of site boundaries, chipping and hauling slash instead of piling, and removing fuels from on top of and adjacent to features and concentrations of artifacts. These methods are implemented on a site-by-site basis to ensure no adverse effect to archeological sites.
- Coordinate and consult with park resources staff (wildlife, archeology, vegetation etc.), concessioners, facilities, hazard tree crews, and other affected stakeholders at least 1 week ahead scenic vista management operations to identify sensitive areas, allow for operational planning, and ensure the implementation of applicable mitigation measures.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

This project falls within the 2020 YOSE Parkwide PA Streamlined Activity 5: Routine Grounds Maintenance.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Section 106 Coordinator Signature:	Hope Schear _____	Date: May 11, 2022 _____
---	----------------------	-----------------------------



Other Compliance/Consultations Form

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
PEPC Project Number: 107716
Project Title: 2022/2023 Scenic Vista Management Work Plan
Project Type: Resource Management
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, CA
County, State: Tuolumne, CA
Project Leader: Garrett Dickman

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? Yes
If species in area: Likely to Adversely Affect
Was Biological Assessment prepared?
If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred? Yes
Formal Consultation required? No
Formal Consultation Notes:

This project should have no effect on the fisher as long as mitigations are followed.

The project area includes multiple work areas within Yosemite Valley in close proximity to aquatic habitats occupied by California red-legged frogs (*Rana draytonii*; CRLF). The project is being placed under the 12/8/2018 biological opinion (attached), which covers actions in the Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan EIS to provide scenic vista management-related tree removals. The project actions have a high overlap with potentially occupied California red-legged frog habitat and involve substantial disturbance; for these reasons, the project has been assessed as "may affect, likely to adversely affect" the species. Applying the attached protection measures is intended to minimize impacts to the species.

Protection measures:

All staff working on the project will attend a resource protection briefing given by Aquatic Wildlife Staff, which will detail protection measures and species identification. Educational talk by Aquatic Wildlife Biologist is required- please schedule no later than 2 weeks before work start, this would need to happen for both tree felling/piling crews, as well as pile burning crews.

The project will be timed to coincide dry portions of the year (late summer to fall) within time frames when CRLF are most likely to be occupying aquatic habitats and less likely to be occupying terrestrial habitat. Staff will avoid work activities in areas within 100 feet of aquatic habitats in Yosemite Valley [REDACTED] and within 72 hours of large precipitation events (more than 1/4 inch rainfall), when CRLF often make terrestrial forays into surrounding forest or upland areas surrounding aquatic habitats.

Tree material removed should be preferentially chipped in areas within 100 feet of aquatic habitat. If chipping is not feasible, materials needing to be piled/burned should be piled outside of meadows and piles should be located 100 feet or more from aquatic habitats (rivers, streams, ponds, meadows). Any piles constructed should be burned as soon as possible, preferably

within 6 months - as the piles can attract wildlife, including CRLF, who may use them as refugia. Piles not burned within 1 year of construction will need to be de-constructed and re-built before burning.

Minimize use of heavy equipment in natural areas; go in and out if they must drive into areas for work. Avoid turning in natural areas.

Project staff working on the project will be advised to follow park speed limits, reducing their speed and increasing their awareness during warm, wet/rainy conditions to avoid vehicle strikes of CRLF and other wildlife.

If CRLF are discovered in the work area, work must stop in the vicinity (within 500 feet of the CRLF) and the park Aquatic Ecologist must be contacted immediately (209-379-1438). Staff may not relocate, handle, or disturb in any way a CRLF. Work may resume at the direction of the Aquatic Ecologist.

Formal Consultation Concluded:

Any State listed Species in the Project Area? Yes

Consultation Information: The California Spotted Owl is a species of conservation concern. If work occurs March 1 - August 15 consult with terrestrial wildlife to avoid spotted owl nest tree radius.

General Notes:

Data Entered By: Ninette Daniele

Date: Mar 3, 2022

ESA Mitigations

See full list Endangered Species Act (ESA) mitigations in Letter of Compliance Complete.

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	None
D. State Section 401 Permit?	No	Issue Date: Expiration Date:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?	No	None
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?	No	Date Review Requested: Date Reply Received: Date State Concurred:
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?	No	None
H. Any other permits required?	No	Permit Information:
Other Information:	No	None

Data Entered By: Kirstie Dunbar-Kari Date: Apr 21, 2022

Floodplains & Wetlands Mitigations

No Floodplains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.

Wilderness

Question	Yes/No	Notes
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?	No	None
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?	No	None
C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?	No	None
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	None
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	None
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.	N/A	Initiation Date: Completed Date: Approved Date:
Other Information:	No	None

Data Entered By: Kirstie Dunbar-Kari Date: Apr 21, 2022

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)	No
G. Other:	No

Other Information:

Data Entered By: Kirstie Dunbar-Kari **Date:** Apr 21, 2022