



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Memorandum

To: Steven Bimm, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-005 Crane Flat Campground - Install Piezometers at Loops A and B Failed Septic Systems (28640)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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.

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

- Ensure that the project includes an archeological monitor during all ground disturbing activities. Park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314.

//Stan Austin// (acting)
Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2010-005 Crane Flat Campground - Install Piezometers at Loops A and B Failed Septic Systems

PEPC Project Number: 28640

Project Description: Install piezometers for groundwater monitoring and excavate test pits for soil sampling at (or adjacent to) the existing failed leach fields within the limits of the Crane Flat Campground.

Piezometers would be installed in holes six to eight inches in diameter and twelve feet deep. Any excess soil materials would be uniformly spread next to the holes. Test pits would be dug approximately two feet wide by four feet deep by six to eight feet long. The pits would be backfilled immediately after the testing and sampling are complete.

Equipment used to excavate the pits or drill holes would be thoroughly cleaned and inspected prior to entry into the park to assure that non-native plant species are not introduced into the area. The proposed sites are within areas that were previously disturbed when the campground was originally built. These sites have been continuously disturbed during the summer months since the 1960s.

Groundwater levels would be monitored by park staff throughout the winter of 2009-2010 in preparation for replacing the failed septic systems during the summer of 2010. One additional exploratory pit may be excavated inside each of the existing leach fields to evaluate the condition of the soils and to determine how their performance characteristics have changed over time.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Ensure that the project includes an archeological monitor during all ground disturbing activities. Park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314.

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

C.10 Installation of wells, comfort stations, and pit toilets in areas of existing use and in developed areas. On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent //Stan Austin// (acting)

Date 4/22/10

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 02/16/2010

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-005 Crane Flat Campground - Install Piezometers at Loops A and B
Failed Septic Systems
PEPC Project Number: 28640
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Steven Bimm

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? No

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		Negligible			Installation entails using an auger to drill three 6-inch diameter holes, 8-feet deep in two locations. Up to two test pits would be dug 4-feet deep, 2-feet wide, and 6-feet long. All pits would be backfilled after sampling.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Minimal air emissions during the subterranean work.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary noises associated with the necessary testing equipment.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				All project equipment would be thoroughly cleaned and inspected prior to entry into the park.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
21. Energy resources	No				
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				

Identify potential effects to the following physical or natural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				The soil and groundwater evaluation is necessary to maintain the campground facilities.
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

Identify potential effects to the following cultural resources	No Historic Properties Affected	No Adverse Effect	Adverse Effect	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Archeological resources		X		Crane Flat Archeological District; monitoring is recommended during all ground disturbance.
2. Prehistoric/historic structure	X			
3. Cultural landscapes	X			
4. Ethnographic resources		X		Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property; consultation completed and monitoring needed.

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
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		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
(Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?				
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a 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 (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		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		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? No

Did personnel conduct a site visit? No

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? No

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Stan Austin	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Acting Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Steven Bimm	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kenec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u> //Renea Kennec// </u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u> 4/13/10 </u>
<u> //Elexis Mayer// </u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u> 4/14/10 </u>
<u> //Mark A. Butler// </u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u> 4/20/10 </u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u> //Don L. Neubacher// </u> Don L. Neubacher	<u> 4/20/10 </u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **February 16, 2010**

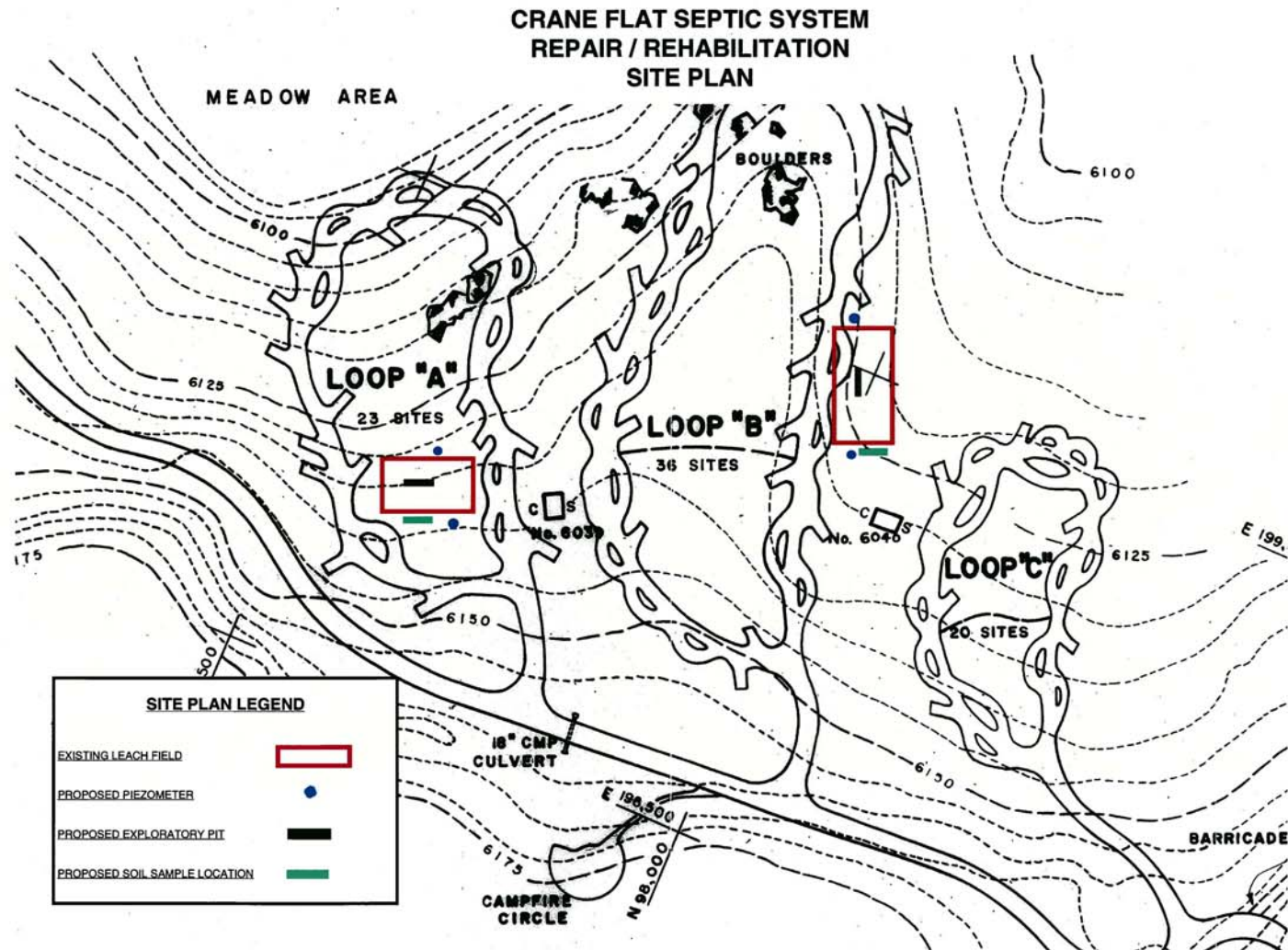
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-005 Crane Flat Campground - Install Piezometers at Loops A and B Failed Septic Systems
PEPC Project Number: 28640
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Steven Bimm

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
5. Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Installation entails using an auger to drill three 6-inch diameter holes, 8-feet deep in two locations. Up to two test pits would be dug 4-feet deep, 2-feet wide, and 6-feet long. All pits would be backfilled after sampling.
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Crane Flat Archeological District; the assessment effect is "No Adverse Effect."
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
8. Has a National Register form been completed?		No		
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
13. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
14. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
15. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
16. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?	Yes			
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
17. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
18. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		





Erosion at Loop A



Loop B Leach Field Location



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park **Park District:** Crane Flat

2. Project Description:

a. **Project Name:** 2010-005 Crane Flat Campground - Install Piezometers at Loops A and B Failed Septic Systems

b. **Date:** March 31, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 28640

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Crane Flat Archeological District; Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property**

Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and numbers: **Crane Flat Archeological District**
NR status: **1 - Listed in Register and documented**

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and numbers: **Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property,**
proposed and managed as.

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

No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

No Replace historic features/elements in kind

No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

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

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
 (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

7. Supporting Study Data:

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

8. Attachments:

- Maps Archeological survey, if applicable Drawings Specifications Photographs
- Scope of Work Site plan List of Materials Samples Other:

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date:** March 31, 2010 **Title:** Environmental Protection Specialist **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

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:

Archeologist
 Name: Laura Kirn
 Date: 01/04/2010
 Comments: Work will occur adjacent to known, significant archeological resources. Archeological monitoring is recommended during ground disturbance. YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.3, g, h.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Archeological monitoring is recommended during ground disturbance.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 01/05/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

Anthropologist

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 02/11/2010

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: American Indian participation recommended during ground disturbance. Contact American Indian Liaison 30 days in advance of field work to arrange participation.

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 01/07/2010

Comments: None.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: None.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

No Reviews From: Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Historic Properties Affected ___**X**___ No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

[] 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. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS: _____

[**X**] D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Specify: 1999PA

[] E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

[] F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

[] G. STIPULATIONS/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.

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Jeannette Simons//

Date: 4/13/10

D. 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.

Signature of Superintendent //Don L. Neubacher//

Date: 4/20/10

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the Environmental Planning and Compliance
Office in Yosemite National Park.*