



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: Annette Catamec, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-044 Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Ecological Restoration Project (30985)

The Leadership 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; and
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction 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:

- Coordinate stock use with Facilities Management to mitigate additional impacts.
- Ensure consultation and arrangement for a site visit with the park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314, prior to beginning any work to ensure avoidance of archeological resources.

// Niki Nicholas //-(acting)

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 04/13/2010

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2010-044 Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Ecological Restoration Project

PEPC Project Number: 30985

Project Description: Ecological restoration work to be completed at the Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. The following actions will be implemented:

1. Restore the area and improve surface drainage using hand tools (shovels would be used to loosen about six inches of soil). Rocks gathered from the site would be used to delineate the trails. Locally-gathered duff would be spread onto the restored area. In addition, the corral area will be restored which would include loosening the soil and covering tree roots (where the soil has been eroded) with natural materials.
2. Cover a 20 foot section with soil and small rock.
3. Extend the hitching rail for 16 feet at the proposed location which is presently used for camp operations (e.g. trash storage and loading/unloading stock).

The materials (metal rail and concrete for footings) would be transported during the routine seasonal opening. Mechanical equipment will not be used to either transport materials or install the hitching rail. The concrete bases from the old hitching rail will be removed and hauled out using stock.

The National Park Service Trails Department will identify and apply erosion controls inside camp. A Wilderness Minimum Requirement Assessment is attached.

Project Location:

- Tuolumne County, California

Mitigation:

- Coordinate stock use with Facilities Management to mitigate additional impacts.

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):

- E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

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 // Niki Nicholas //-(acting)

Date 8-16-10



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: **07/19/2010**

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: Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Ecological Restoration Project
PEPC Project Number: 30985
Project Type: landscape restoration (OTHER)
Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California Other: Vogelsang High Sierra Camp
Project Leader: Annette Catamec
Administrative Record: Environmental Planning and Compliance Office
Location:
Administrative Record Contact: Renea Kennec
Notes:

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION

Preliminary drawings attached? **No**

Background information attached? **No**

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

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

| Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources | No Effect | Negligible Effects | Minor Effects | Exceeds Minor Effects | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc. | | Negligible | | | Soil decompaction is six inches deep and hitching rail posts will be 24 inches deep and one foot in diameter. |
| 2. From geohazards | No | | | | |
| 3. Air quality | No | | | | |
| 4. Soundscapes | No | | | | |
| 5. Water quality or quantity | No | | | | |
| 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 | | | | |
| 16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc. | No | | | | |
| 17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources | No | | | | |
| 18. Archeological resources | | Negligible | | | Consultation with the park archeologist will occur prior to beginning any work. |
| 19. Prehistoric/historic structure | No | | | | |

| Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources | No Effect | Negligible Effects | Minor Effects | Exceeds Minor Effects | Data Needed to Determine/Notes |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 20. Cultural landscapes | No | | | | |
| 21. Ethnographic resources | No | | | | |
| 22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections) | No | | | | |
| 23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure | No | | | | |
| 24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc. | No | | | | |
| 25. Energy resources | No | | | | |
| 26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies | No | | | | |
| 27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability | No | | | | |
| 28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc. | No | | | | |
| 29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity | No | | | | |
| 30. Other important environment | No | | | | |

D. 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? | | N | | |
| 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 | | N | | |

| Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal: | Yes | No | N/A | Comment or Data Needed to Determine |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (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))? | | N | | |
| D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? | | N | | |
| E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? | | N | | |
| F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects? | | N | | |
| 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? | | N | | |
| 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? | | N | | |
| I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? | | N | | |
| J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? | | N | | |
| 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)? | | N | | |
| L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or | | N | | |

| Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal: | Yes | No | N/A | Comment or Data Needed to Determine |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)? | | | | |

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.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? **No**

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

Field of Expertise

Project Leader -

Field of Expertise

Division IDT Liaison -

Historical Architect -

Chief of Project Management -

Fire Prevention Officer -

Deputy Chief Ranger, Operations -

Safety Officer -

Division IDT Liaison -

Historical Landscape Architect -

NEPA Specialist -

Archeologist -

Division IDT Liaison -

Division IDT Liaison -

Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager -

Chief of Interpretation -

Chief of Planning -

Interdisciplinary Team Leader Name

Annette Catamec:

Technical Specialists Names

Tony Brocchini

Sueann Brown

Mark Butler

Don Coffman

Charles Cuvelier

Roger Farmer

Randy Fong

David Humphrey

Renea Kennec

Laura Kirn

Mary Kline

Carol Knipper

-Elexis Mayer

Tom Medema

Kathleen Morse

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Superintendent - | Don Neubacher |
| Chief of Resources Management & Science - | Niki Nicholas |
| Chief of Business and Revenue Management - | Marty Nielson |
| NHPA Specialist - | Jeannette Simons |
| Division IDT Liaison - | Kim Tucker |
| Chief of Administration Management - | Katariina Tuovinen |
| Chief of Facilities Management - | Ed Walls |

H. 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.

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Recommended:

| Compliance Specialists | Date |
|--|----------------|
| <u>// Renea Kennec //</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec | <u>7/21/10</u> |
| <u>// Elexis Mayer //</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer | <u>8/4/10</u> |
| <u>// Randall J Fong //</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler | <u>8/13/10</u> |

Approved:

| Superintendent | Date |
|---|----------------|
| <u>// Niki Nicholas //-(acting)</u> Don L. Neubacher | <u>8/16/10</u> |



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/19/2010

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: July 19, 2010

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-044 Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Ecological Restoration Project
PEPC Project Number: 30985
Project Type: landscape restoration (OTHER)
Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Annette Catamec

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 | | | Soil decompaction is needed to improve percolation and decrease soil erosion. |
| 6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect? | | No | | Arrange for site visit with park archeologist prior to beginning work, to ensure avoidance of archeological resources. |
| 7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape? | | No | | |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|----|-----|---|
| 8. Has a National Register form been completed? | | | N/A | |
| 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. Remain consistent with its river segment classification? | | | N/A | |
| 14. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River? | Yes | | | Fletcher Creek. |
| 15. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor? | | No | | |
| 16. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values? | | No | | |
| 17. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement? | Yes | | | |
| WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST | | | | |
| 18. Within designated Wilderness? | Yes | | | Minimum Requirement Analysis is attached. |
| 19. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition? | Yes | | | |

Vogelsang proposed restoration 2010

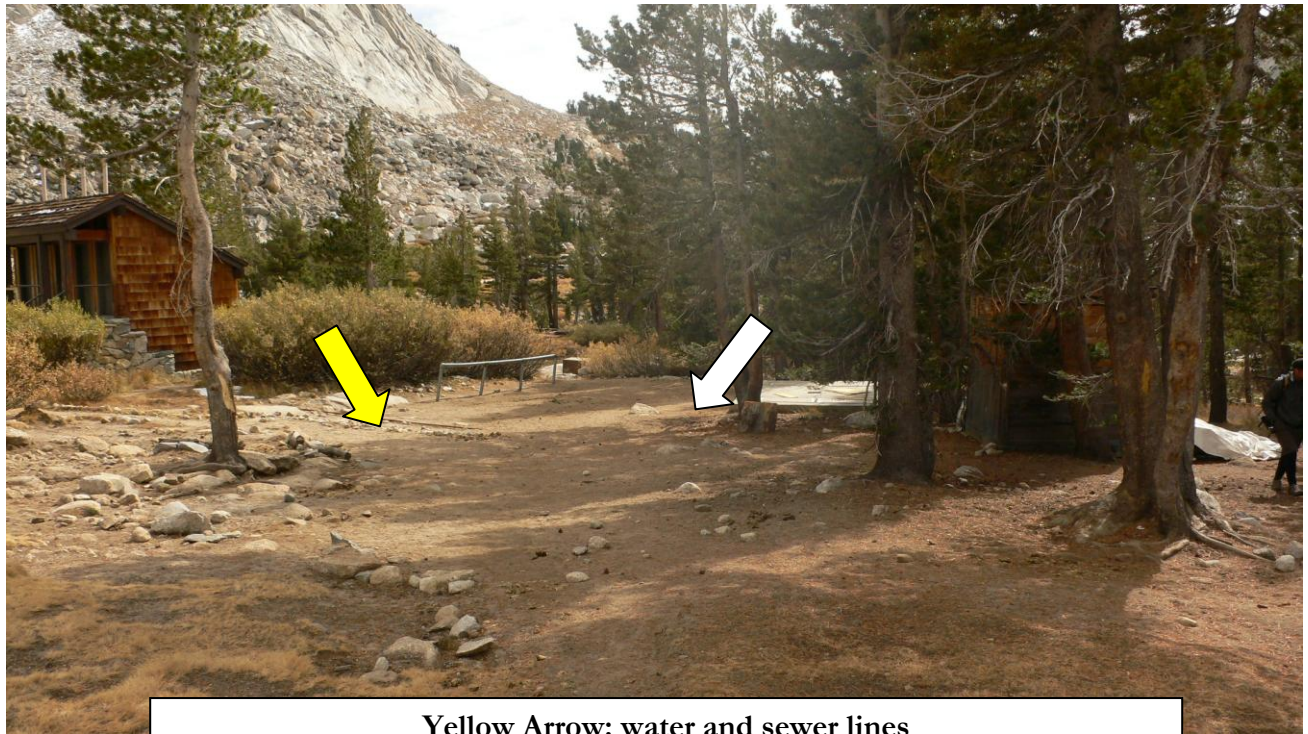


Paths inside camp

White arrow: to dinning tent

Yellow arrow: to linen shed

Red arrow: to guest tents



Yellow Arrow: water and sewer lines
White arrow: proposed location for a hitching rail



Old hitching rail removed during previous restoration effort in 2005



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. **Project Description:**

a. **Project Name:** 2010-044 Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Ecological Restoration Project

b. **Date:** July 19, 2010

c. **PEPC project ID number:** 30985

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

No

Yes, Source or reference:

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 number(s): Vogelsang High Sierra Camp

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

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

No Replace historic features/elements in kind

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

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

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

No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify)

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:

- Ensure consultation and arrangement for a site visit with the park Archeologist, Laura Kirn, 379-1314, prior to beginning any work to ensure avoidance of archeological resources.

7. Supporting Study Data:

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: July 19, 2010 Title: Telephone:

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: 05/07/2010

Comments: Arrange for site visit with Archeologist prior to beginning work, to ensure avoidance of archeological resources.

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)]

Historical Architect

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 05/26/2010

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: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 05/13/2010
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)]

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

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Historic Properties Affected 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: _____

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: 1999 Programmatic Agreement

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 _____ *// Jeanette Simmons //* _____

Date: 8-11-10

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 _____ *// Niki Nicholas //-(acting)* _____

Date: 8-16-10

