



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: Joe Meyer, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-113 Mono Pass Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), Mitigate Hazards (27152)

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:

- No mitigations identified.

\\ Dennis Schramn \\
David V. Uberuaga

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/24/2009

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2009-113 Mono Pass Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), Mitigate Hazards

PEPC Project Number: 27152

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to mitigate hazards at the Golden Crown Mine near Mono Pass in Yosemite National Park. The Golden Crown Mine is on the crest of the Sierra Nevada, straddling the park boundary with the Inyo National Forest. This project addresses only mine lands currently on National Park Service (NPS) land within Yosemite National Park.

There are numerous prospect pits (shallow holes), shafts (vertical passageways from the surface), and adits (horizontal passageways from the surface associated with the mine). The primary concern on NPS lands are two flooded shafts, which pose a drowning hazard.

NPS proposes to mitigate hazards in the following ways:

Shaft #1: Use waste rock that originated in the mine shafts and locally-available native rock to partially fill the shaft to mitigate the hazard. A significant portion of the waste rock would not be disturbed, given that the shaft will not be completely filled and that the waste rock cannot be packed to their original density. The water in the flooded shaft will be tested to determine if leaching is causing unacceptable levels of contamination.

Shaft #2: Use waste rock to partially fill the shaft to mitigate the hazard. A significant portion of the waste rock would not be disturbed, given that the shaft will not be completely filled and that the waste rock cannot be packed to their original density. The water in the flooded shaft will be tested to determine if leaching is causing unacceptable levels of contamination.

Staff from the park History, Architecture, and Landscapes (HAL) branch will photo document and prepare measured drawings of the existing timber work at the shaft entrance prior to the initiation of work.

Initial funding to mitigate hazards and reduce risk is available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The total amount of funds available through this funding source is unknown, as is the total cost of the proposed mitigations. However, the work is non-technical and can likely be accomplished by youth groups such as Student Conservation Association, with some of the work being done by volunteer groups.

Experts in the Archeology & Anthropology, HAL, and Wildlife branches of NPS Resources Management Division were consulted in the development of this project, many of which participated in a site visit. The Wilderness Management Office was consulted in the determination of the minimum tools and impacts possible to complete the project.

Project Location:

Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- No mitigations identified.

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.19 Construction or rehabilitation in previously disturbed or developed areas, required to meet health or safety regulations, or to meet requirements for making facilities accessible to the handicapped.

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 Acting Superintendent _____ *\\ Dennis Schramm * _____

Date 12/22/2009 _____



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/24/2009

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 11/17/2009

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: 2009-113 Mono Pass Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), Mitigate Hazards
PEPC Project Number: 27152
PMIS Number: 148275A
Project Type: Abandoned Mine Lands (OTHER)
Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Joe Meyer

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, 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.	No				The subterranean mine shifts will be filled with native rock and sediment.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Temporary noises while the mine is being sealed off. A work crew of up to 15 people will be in the area for 10-30 days.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	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
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				
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				This site is not adequate habitat for bats, so it is highly unlikely that any are utilizing these (S. Stock, Wildlife Management).
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	No				Where archeological sites exist, no soil disturbance will occur. Park Archeologist will identify these sites.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			The mine shafts are historic structures that will be affected by filling them up.
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				

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
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 resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

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?		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 drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		N		
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		N		

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

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? Yes

Did personnel conduct a site visit? Yes, Resources Management and Science staff.

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? No

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

Interdisciplinary Team	Field of Expertise
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Dennis Schramm	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristina Rylands	Acting Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Paul Laymon	Acting Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Joe Meyer	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	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 Specialist	Date
<u>\\ Renea Kennec \\</u>	<u>12/7/2009</u>
Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	
<u>\\ Elexis Mayer \\</u>	<u>12/22/2009</u>
Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	
<u>\\ Mark A Butler \\</u>	<u>12/22/2009</u>
Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>\\ Dennis Schramm \\</u>	<u>12/22/2009</u>
David V. Uberuaga	



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/24/2009

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **November 24, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2009-113 Mono Pass Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), Mitigate Hazards
PEPC Project Number: 27152
Project Type: Abandoned Mine Lands (OTHER)
Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Joe Meyer

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

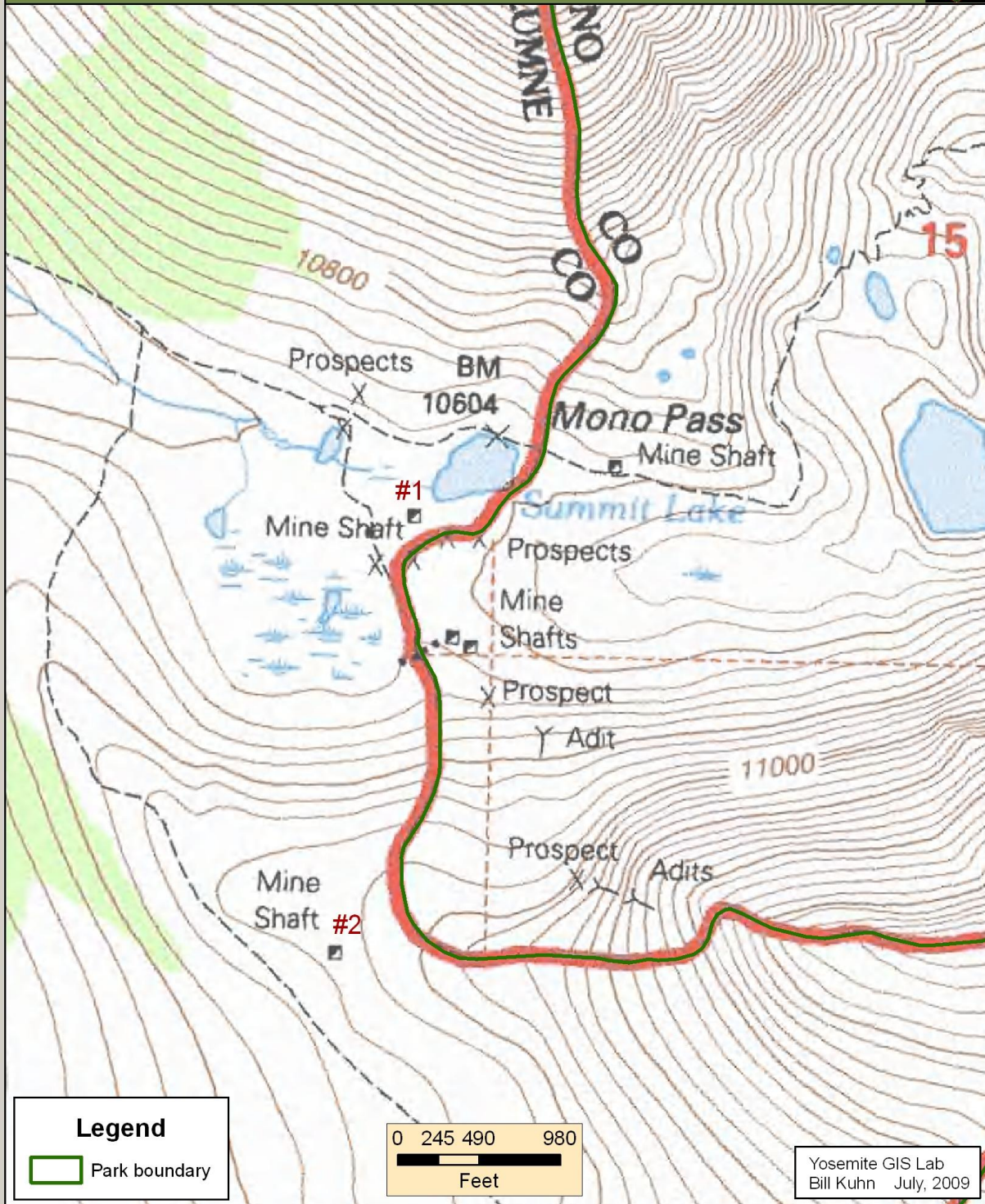
ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST		X		
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST	X			
5. Entail ground disturbance?	X			The project will avoid impacts to archeological resources by either having a monitor onsite or by strategizing with the project supervisor on areas from which rocks can be taken. The shafts will be documented prior to treatment. The shaft with the collapsed wooden superstructure will be documented, remains removed, shaft filled, and remains placed in original configuration.

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	X			
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	X			Filling the mine shaft is not considered alteration because it is a reversible safety action.
8. Has a National Register form been completed?	X			
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?	X			
10. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST		X		
11. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		X		
12. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?			X	
13. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		X		
14. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	
15. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	
17. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
18. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
19. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?			X	
20. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?			X	
21. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?			X	
22. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan				

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Settlement Agreement?				
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST	X			Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis attached.
23. Within designated Wilderness?			X	
24. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	X			

Mono Pass Golden Crown Mine

Yosemite National Park
U.S. Dept
of the Interior









National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 11/24/2009

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park **Park District:** Wilderness

2. Project Description:

a. **Project Name:** 2009-113 Mono Pass Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), Mitigate Hazards

Date: November 24, 2009

PEPC Project ID Number: 27152

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 Resource(s):

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): Golden Crown Mine Location: Wilderness Mono Pass

Notes: There are archeological sites at Mono Pass.

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

☒ **Yes** 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:** November 24, 2009 **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: Sonny Montague
Date: 11/19/2009
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:

The project will avoid impacts to archeological resources by either having a monitor onsite or by strategizing with the project supervisor on areas from which rocks can be taken. The shafts will be documented prior to treatment. The shaft with the collapsed wooden superstructure will be documented, remains removed, shaft filled, and remains placed in original configuration.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

☒ Historical Architect
Name: Sueann Brown
Date: 11/25/2009
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

[X] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 11/10/2009

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

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, 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: _____

☐ 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 \\ Elaxis Mayer \\ - acting

Date: 12/22/2009

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 Acting Superintendent \\ Dennis Schramn \\

Date: 12/22/2009