



Forest  
Service

Sequoia National Forest and  
Giant Sequoia National Monument  
Kern River Ranger District

P.O. Box 9,  
11380 Kernville Road  
Kernville CA 93238  
(760) 376-3781  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sequoia/)

File Code: 1950/2720

Date: APR 13 2018

Route To:

Subject: Sequoia ForestKeeper Temporary Special Use Permit (SUP) for construction of osprey platform

To: Ann D. Carlson, Acting Forest Supervisor

From: Tania Ellersick, Acting Deputy Ranger 

I have determined that the Sequoia ForestKeeper Temporary Special Use Permit (SUP) for construction of an osprey platform on National Forest System land falls within a category of actions listed in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) that may be excluded from environmental documentation. The particular category is found at FSH 1909.15, Chapter 32.12 (8) Categories Established by the Chief – Approve/modify/ continue less than one year Special Use Permit [36 CFR 220.6(d)(8)].

This category is appropriate because the SUP authorizes the approval of a special use permit for Sequoia ForestKeeper, a nonprofit organization, to stage a group event to install an osprey nest platform. Attached is a checklist completed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documenting there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with the project necessitating preparing an environmental analysis or environmental impact statement.

Enclosure



**NEPA COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST**  
*internal use only*

**Sequoia National Forest  
Kern River Ranger District**

**Name of Project:** Sequoia ForestKeeper Temporary Special Use Permit (SUP) for construction of osprey platform

**Description of Project:** The project is to issue a temporary SUP, authorizing Sequoia ForestKeeper to construct an osprey platform on National Forest lands near the Kern River in the Kernville area (Section 33, T25S, R33 MDBM). The project is needed because an osprey pair is attempting to nest on a high voltage power pole. Southern California Edison has constructed a nest barrier on the power pole to deter the ospreys from nesting, in compliance with maintenance and safety procedures, to protect both the ospreys and the power grid. The ospreys are attempting to return and therefore an alternate nest location is needed. Sequoia ForestKeeper will construct a nest platform near the existing power pole. There are no other trees in the area suitable for an osprey nest.

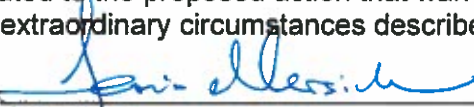
The only ground disturbing activities are installation of a single pole, approximately 16' high. Existing public dirt roads provide access to the site, which is located east of Burlando Road and north of the old Kernville Cemetery. The Kern River Valley Public Cemetery District has been notified and is in support of the project.

**Purpose of Checklist:** For projects categorically excluded under NEPA that do not require a decision memo, this checklist documents that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

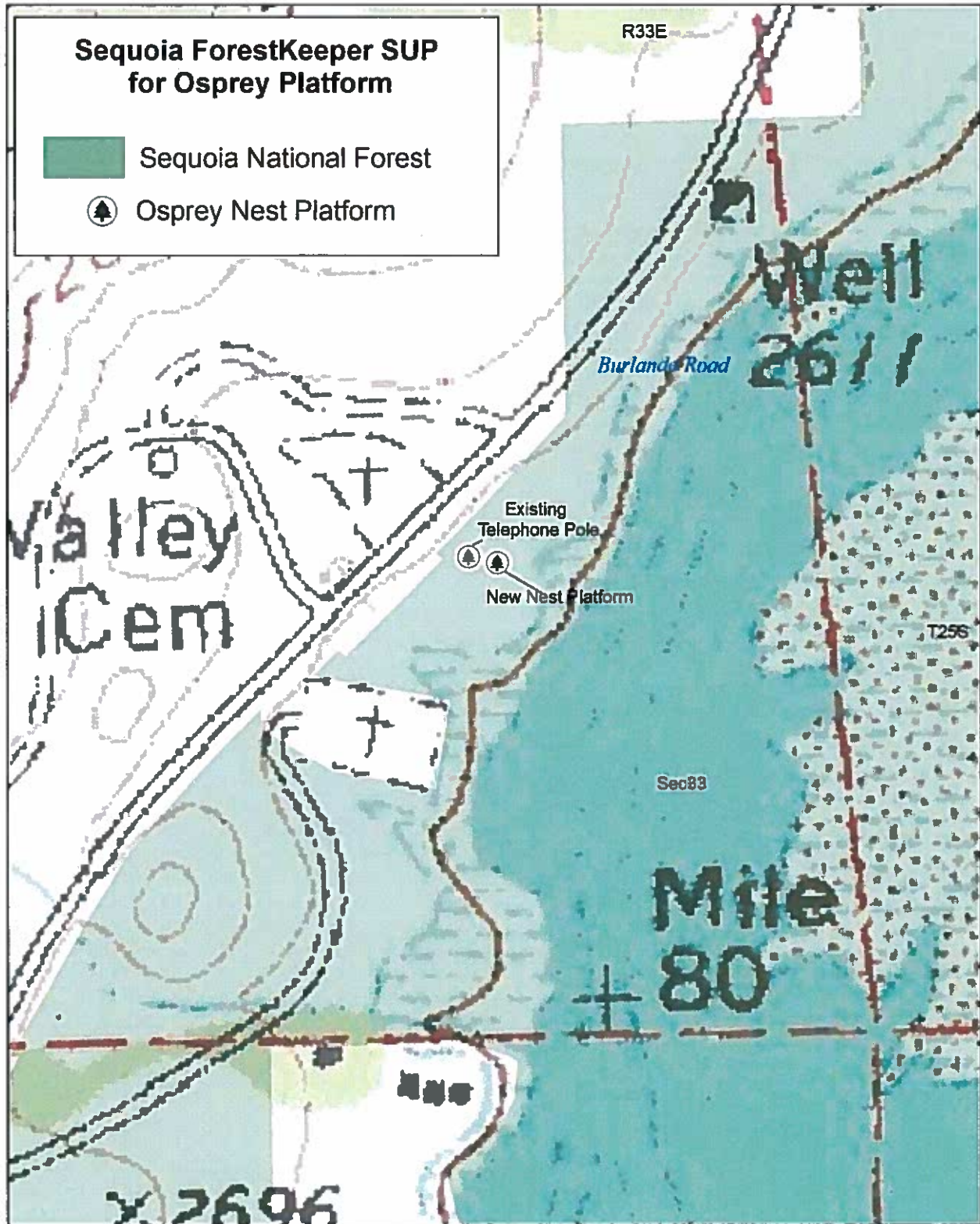
<b>Applicable Categorical Exclusions for Projects Not Requiring a Decision Memo</b> For full description of each category and examples refer to FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.				
<b>32.11 Categories Established by the Secretary 7 CRF 2b.3(a)</b>		<b>32.12 Categories Established by the Chief 36 CFR 220.6(d)</b>		
	(1) Policy admin. development/planning		(1) Prohibit for resource protection	
	(2) Activities related to funding/money		(2) Admin procedures, processes, instructions	
	(3) Inventories, research activities, studies		(3) Repair/maintain Admin. Sites	
	(4) Educational and information activities		(4) Repair/maintain roads, trails, landlines	
	(5) Law enforcement and investigation		(5) Repair/maintain Rec. Sites/Facilities	
	(6) Advisory or consultative activities		(6) Acquisition of land or interest in land.	
	(7) Trade /market development		(7) Sale or exchange of land with same land use	
		X	(8) Approve/modify/continue less than 1 year Special Use Permit	
			(9) New Permit for existing ski area for administrative changes only	
			(10) Amend/Replace existing Special Use Permit for administrative changes only	
<b>31.4 Statutory NEPA Exception</b>				
16 USC 6236 – Organization Camp Special Use Authorization				
<b>Determination of Extraordinary Circumstances for the Proposal 36 CFR 220.6(a)</b>				
Resource Conditions 36 CFR 220.6(b)	Resource Present?		For Resource Conditions that are Present, the following Findings are made:	Reference material supporting finding of no extraordinary circumstance
	Yes	No		

Federally listed, or proposed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, or FS sensitive species		X	No federally listed or proposed Forest Service sensitive species or habitat would be affected by issuing this recreation activities SUP. Ospreys are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act but have no other special Forest status.	Forest Wildlife Biologist. This project is minor nature and will benefit the ospreys.
Floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds	X		The activities authorized by this SUP will not adversely affect any flood plains, wetlands, or watersheds. The project is within the Bakersfield Municipal Watershed.	District Hydrologist. Installation of a single pole will result in minimal ground disturbance.
Congressionally designated wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas		X	The activities authorized by the SUP will not adversely affect any Congressionally designated areas. The project area is near but not within the boundaries of the North Fork of the Kern Wild and Scenic River. Issuing this SUP will not impact this designation.	District Recreation Officer. The activities will not affect this determination.
Inventoried Roadless Areas		X	The activities are outside inventoried roadless or potential wilderness areas. No extraordinary circumstances exist for this resource condition.	District Planner. The activities authorized by the SUP are outside these areas.
Research Natural Areas		X	RNAs will not be <u>adversely</u> affected by this action. No extraordinary circumstances exist for this resource condition.	District Planner. The activities authorized by the SUP are outside these areas.
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites		X	Implementation of the Proposed Action would not <u>adversely</u> affect American Indian religious or cultural sites. No extraordinary circumstances exist for this resource condition. A requirement of the SUP will be to leave any cultural resource discovered, stop all activities, and immediately notify FS. Areas under SUP are used by the general public.	District Archeologist. The project is deemed exempt as it is a single pole. This project will not pose an adverse effect to cultural resources or restrict public access to these areas during the activities.
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas		X	No archeological sites or sites eligible for National Historic Register listing will be <u>adversely</u> affected by this proposal. No extraordinary circumstances exist for this resource condition.	See (6) above.

I have considered the above listed resource conditions and determined there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. None of the extraordinary circumstances described in 36 CFR 220.6 (b) exist.

Signature   
**TANIA ELLERSICK**  
 Acting Deputy Ranger

Date: 4/13/2018



0 0.05 0.1 Miles

April 13, 2018  
WRS