



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Michael Pieper, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-007 Rehabilitation of the Remaining Wawona Road-Mariposa Grove Road and South Entrance Intersection (63857)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

- There will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- There will be no adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- 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.

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

- Prior to actions with potential to trample, damage, or remove traditionally used plants, consult with American Indians knowledgeable in plant resources and measures for protection; implement protection measures where appropriate.
- The road width will remain the same and all drainage improvements will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, in consultation with the Cultural Resources Program in the division of Resources Management and Science.
- Project management will coordinate with Cultural Resources staff to implement appropriate protective measures and conduct archeological monitoring where determined necessary.
- Tribal monitoring may be needed for this project.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 63857.

// Don L. Neubacher //

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

Letter of Compliance Completion - Rehabilitation of the Remaining Wawona Road-Mariposa Grove Road and South Entrance Intersection - PEPC ID: 63857

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



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2016-007 Rehabilitation of the Remaining Wawona Road-Mariposa Grove Road and South Entrance Intersection

PEPC Project Number: 63857

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project will pulverize and repave approximately 0.86 miles of the Wawona Road (Route 0014; FMSS# 10814) from 1/4 mile north of South Entrance Station to the southern park boundary and the western 2.06 miles of the Mariposa Grove Road. [The roundabout at the South Entrance Intersection and the curve adjustment at the Grove entrance were addressed under the Mariposa Grove Restoration EIS/ROD (2013).]

- The existing 24 foot wide paved Wawona Road and 22 foot wide paved Mariposa Grove Road will be recycled (pulverized to a maximum depth of 12") and overlaid with spot reconstruction of subgrade and shoulders as required (spot reconstruction to a maximum depth of 2-ft.).
- The work includes minimal drainage work with two culverts being replaced due to failure and 6 new culverts due to a lack of drainage which is causing water ponding and creating icy conditions, as well as saturated pavement and road failures. The new culverts will allow the water to flow across the road into the natural drainage instead of being dammed up as it currently is. For any culverts that are relatively deep, slip-lining will be considered as a preferred repair. The proposed drainage work also includes installing an underdrain system at approximately 50 road locations where there is currently a road failure concern (maximum trench width of 3-ft. and depth of 5-ft.). The existing paved ditches will be repaved. The drainage design repairs will be coordinated with park hydrologists and revegetation specialists. Natural water flows will not be changed.
- The proposal includes minimal work at pullouts and intersections, which will be within the existing paved footprint. Work includes pulverizing and re-grading the existing paved and unpaved pullouts/intersections and then repaving the existing paved pullouts and re-grading the unpaved pullouts. Also, at some pullout locations the proposal includes adding boulders and/or berms to contain the pullout area and prevent any further expansion/disturbance of the surrounding pullout areas. There are also shoulder areas that have been widened due to informal stopping/parking; this project includes re-grading these areas to minimize the traffic safety concerns and resource disturbance.
- The proposed design will be submitted to the appropriate Park resource specialists (Park Historical Landscape Architect, Hydrologist, Botanist, Revegetation Specialist, Protection-Traffic Staff, etc.) for review and guidance to help minimize or eliminate impacts to park resources.
- A wildlife crossing will be added at Big Creek (A 36" diameter culvert will be added adjacent to the existing Big Creek box culvert so animals can cross the road without getting hit when there are high flows in the existing Big Creek box culvert).

• This project will not alter the historic character of the road. The road width will remain the same and all drainage improvements will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors' Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, in consultation with the Cultural Resources Program of the Division of Resources Management and Science.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigation(s):

- Prior to actions with potential to trample, damage, or remove traditionally used plants, consult with American Indians knowledgeable in plant resources and measures for protection; implement protection measures where appropriate.
- The road width will remain the same and all drainage improvements will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, in consultation with the Hal Branch of the Division of Resources Management and Science.
- Project management will coordinate with Cultural Resources staff to implement appropriate protective measures and conduct archeological monitoring where determined necessary.
- Tribal monitoring may be needed for this project.

CE Citation: C.9 Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, etc., on existing roads.

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: // Don L. Neubacher //

Date: 7/12/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
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, 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 (EO 12898)?	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 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	



ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: 2016-007 Rehabilitation of the Remaining Wawona Road-Mariposa Grove Road and South Entrance Intersection
PEPC Project Number: 63857
Project Type: Repair/Rehabilitation (REHAB)
Project Location:
County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Michael Pieper

B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Air Air Quality	Potential	Temporary air emissions during the road work.
Biological Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
Biological Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
Biological Vegetation	Potential	A vegetation plan is being developed and will be implemented after construction activities are complete.
Biological Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	Potential	A 36" diameter culvert will be added adjacent to the existing Big Creek box culvert so animals can cross the road without getting hit when there are high flows in the existing Big Creek box culvert.
Cultural Archeological Resources	Potential	The project area is within and adjacent to sensitive resources. Project Management will coordinate with Cultural Resources staff to implement appropriate protective measures and conduct archeological monitoring where determined necessary.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Cultural Cultural Landscapes	None	
Cultural Ethnographic Resources	None	No Ethnographic sites identified within project area. Tribal consultation initiated on May 11, 2016. No comments or concerns received regarding project to date. Tribal monitoring may be needed for this project.
Cultural Museum Collections	None	
Cultural Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	The road width will remain the same and all drainage improvements will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, in consultation with the Hal Branch of the Division of Resources Management and Science.
Geological Geologic Features	Potential	The majority of the road will be pulverized to a maximum depth of 12"; some areas need reconstruction up to a maximum depth of 24". Underdrain system work includes trenching to a maximum depth of 5'.
Geological Geologic Processes	None	
Lightsapes Lightsapes	None	
Other Human Health and Safety	None	
Other Operational	None	
Socioeconomic Land Use	None	
Socioeconomic Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
Socioeconomic Socioeconomic	None	
Soundscapes Soundscapes	Potential	Construction noises will occur throughout the road work.

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Viewsheds Viewsheds	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Recreation Resources	None	
Visitor Use and Experience Visitor Use and Experience	Potential	This project includes temporary, minimal traffic delays.
Water Floodplains	None	
Water Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
Water Water Quality or Quantity	Potential	The project area to be potentially impacted measures 0.0931 acres. This project will have soil disturbance that has the potential to cause temporary increased turbidity and temporary siltation of Big Creek. The use of earth moving equipment could potentially cause a hydraulic oil or fuel leak leading to contamination in the waters. Project work will occur during the fall when water levels are low and conditions are dry. Erosion fencing and wattles will be installed surrounding the disturbed soil areas to minimize the risk of sediment entering drainages.
Water Wetlands	None	
Water Wild and Scenic River	None	
Wilderness Wilderness	None	

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists <i>// Kristin Anderson //</i> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	Date <u>7/7/2016</u>
 <i>// Madelyn Ruffner //</i> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	 <u>7/7/2016</u>

<u>// Randy Fong //</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>7/8/2016</u>
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Approved:

Superintendent <u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	Date <u>7/12/2016</u>
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ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2016-007 Rehabilitation of the Remaining Wawona Road-Mariposa Grove Road and South Entrance Intersection

Prepared by: Renea Kennec **Date Prepared:** 06/07/2016 **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 63857

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])
Mariposa Grove Historic District; South Entrance Historic District

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

No

Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological resources affected:

Name and number(s): Archeological Site

Historical Structures/Resources Affected:

Name and number(s): South Entrance Historic District

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

Name and number(s): Mariposa Grove Historic District

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and number(s): Mariposa Grove Historic District

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

Name and number(s): South Entrance Historic District

NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district

Cultural Landscapes Notes: Cultural landscape status was determined in the Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLI's) that were processed as DOE's for these properties.

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
- Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- Yes Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
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
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. 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:

Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 07/05/2016

Comments: No Ethnographic sites identified within project area. Tribal consultation initiated on May 11, 2016. No comments or concerns received regarding project to date.

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: Tribal monitoring may be needed for this project.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 07/05/2016

Comments: The project area is within and adjacent to sensitive resources.

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: Project management will coordinate with Cultural Resources staff to implement appropriate protective measures and conduct archeological monitoring where determined necessary.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

Historian
Name: Scott Carpenter
Date: 07/05/2016

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 Programmatic Agreement

Historical Landscape Architect
Name: Kimball Koch
Date: 07/06/2016

Comments: This portion of the work is standard resurfacing and repair of roadway.

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:

No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

No Potential to Cause Effects
 No Historic Properties Affected
 No Adverse Effect
 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. 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.

1999 PA as amended in 2016

E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

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

G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

H. Memo to ACHP

SHPO/THPO Notes: Tribal consultation initiated on May 11, 2016. No comments or concerns received regarding project to date

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

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.)**

- Assessment of Effect - Prior to actions with potential to trample, damage, or remove traditionally used plants, consult with American Indians knowledgeable in plant resources and measures for protection; implement protection measures where appropriate.
- Assessment of Effect - The road width will remain the same and all drainage improvements will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, in consultation with the Hal Branch of the Division of Resources Management and Science.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Kimball Koch // Kimball Koch //

Date: 7/6/2016

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

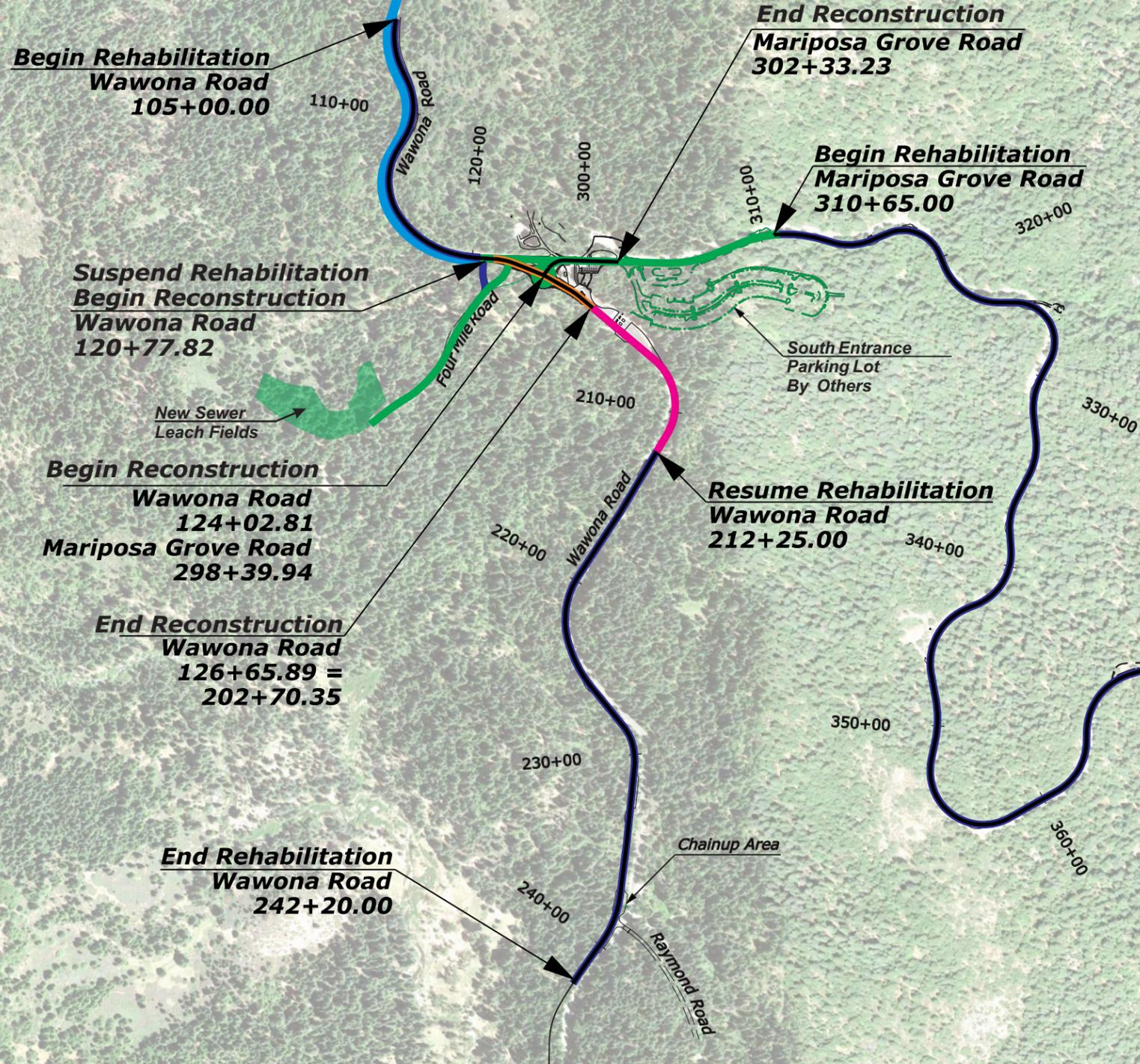
The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Superintendent: // Don L. Neubacher //

Date: 7/12/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



PROPOSED CE (2016) (Rehabilitation of the Remaining Wawona Road-Mariposa Grove Road and South Entrance Intersection--PEPC 63857)

Wawona Road
Includes rehabilitating the remaining 0.3 miles of Wawona Road north of South Entrance Intersection and the 0.56 miles of Wawona Road south of the South Entrance Intersection & Kiosk. (Sta. 105+00 to 120+77.82 and 212+25.00 to 242+20.00)

Mariposa Grove Road
Western 1.65 miles of the Mariposa Grove Road (Sta. 310+65 to 398+00)

4-Mile Road
This includes the realignment of 4-Mile road due to safety reasons, because the northern entrance interferes with the new roundabout design. (Approx. 300-LF of a new 4-mile road section.)

EIS (2013) (Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias--PEPC 38400)

Wawona Road
South Entrance Intersection Area, which is to be realigned with a roundabout.

Mariposa Grove Road
This includes widening the eastern most segment of the Mariposa Grove Road to prevent larger vehicles from hitting the Giant Sequoia trees near the Lower Grove Entrance. (Sta. 398+00 to 405+50)

This includes the area around the South Entrance Intersection, such as the new 300-car parking area and restrooms, along with the associated new utilities. From Station 300+00 to 310+65.

4-Mile Road
This includes rehabilitating the existing 4-mile road and the construction of a new leachfield and associated new utility lines.

Begin Rehabilitation Wawona Road 105+00.00

End Reconstruction Mariposa Grove Road 302+33.23

Begin Rehabilitation Mariposa Grove Road 310+65.00

Suspend Rehabilitation Begin Reconstruction Wawona Road 120+77.82

Begin Reconstruction Wawona Road 124+02.81 Mariposa Grove Road 298+39.94

End Reconstruction Wawona Road 126+65.89 = 202+70.35

Resume Rehabilitation Wawona Road 212+25.00

End Rehabilitation Wawona Road 242+20.00

End Reconstruction Mariposa Grove Road 405+50

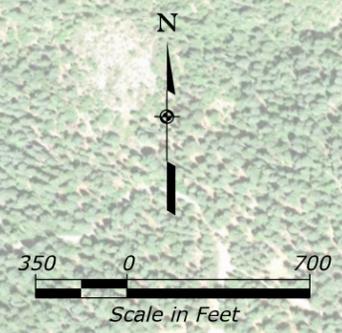
End Rehabilitation Start Reconstruction Mariposa Grove Road 398+00

CE (2012) (South Entrance Station Kiosks Replacement--PEPC No. 39501)
Wawona Road
Included rehabilitating the Wawona Road and relocating the South Entrance Station Kiosks approx. 300-LF southward along Wawona Road. (Sta. 120+60 to 212+25)

CE (2011) (South Entrance Station Reestablish Exit Lane--PEPC No. 39433)
Wawona Road
This CE included reinstalling a former exit lane that had been abandoned for many years at South Entrance. This existing exit lane runs right thru the center of the roundabout covered under the Mariposa Grove Restoration EIS.

LENGTH OF PROJECT

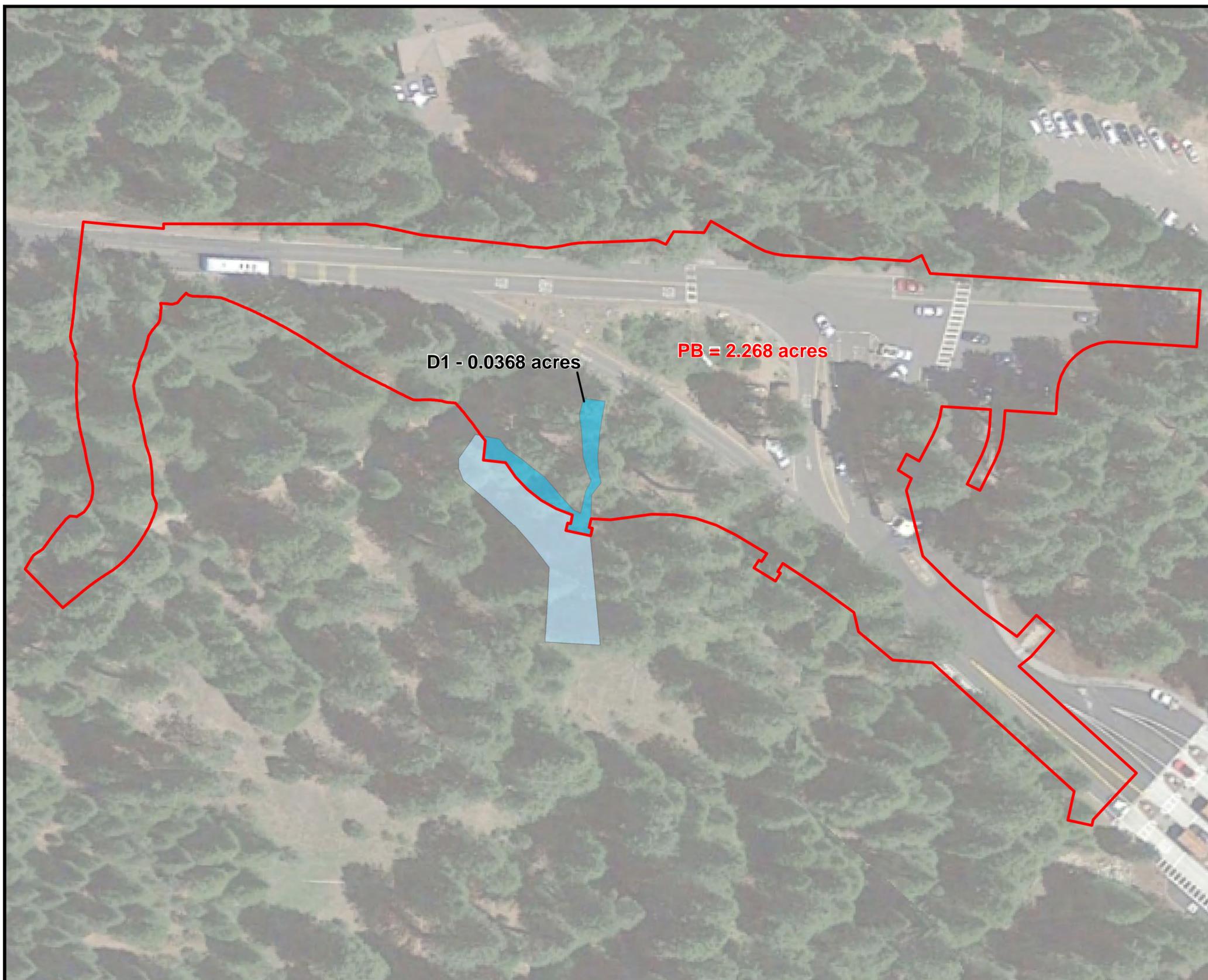
Description	Station to Station	Roadway (ft)	Roadway (miles)
Wawona Road	105+00.00 to 120+77.82	1,577.82	0.299
Roundabout (Wawona Road)	120+77.82 to 124+02.81	324.99	0.062
Roundabout (Mariposa Grove Road)	298+39.94 to 302+33.23	393.29	0.074
Wawona Road	212+25.00 to 242+20.00	2,995.00	0.567
Mariposa Grove Road	310+65.00 to 405+50.00	9,485.00	1.796
Totals		14,776.10	2.798



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 01/03/2016



Yosemite South Entrance Wetland Delineation



Legend

Wetlands (0.000 acres)

Palustrine emergent
(0.000) acres

Other Waters of the U.S. (0.0368 acres)

Drainage Ditch
(0.0368 acres)

Other Waters of the U.S.

Outside Project Boundary

Study Area Acreage (2.268 acres)

Project Boundary
(2.268 acres)



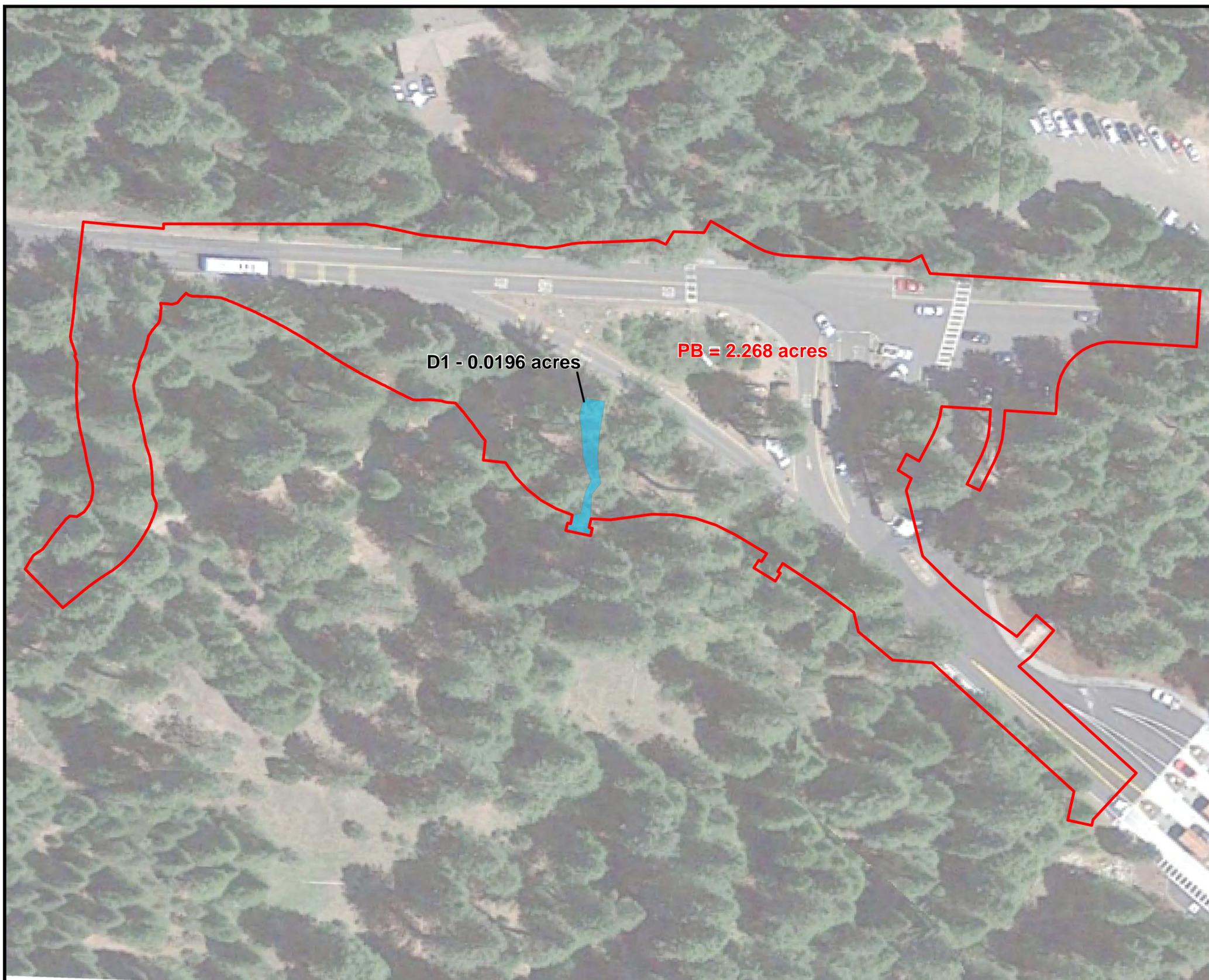
0 25 50 100 150 Feet

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
False Easting: 500,000.0000
False Northing: 0.0000
Central Meridian: -117.0000
Scale Factor: 0.9996
Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000

1 inch = 50 feet
Created on April 8, 2016



Yosemite South Entrance
Wetland Delineation



Legend

Wetlands (0.000 acres)

Palustrine emergent
(0.000 acres)

**Other Waters of the U.S.
(0.0196 acres)**

Drainage Ditch
(0.0196 acres)

**Study Area Acreage
(2.268 acres)**

Project Boundary
(2.268 acres)

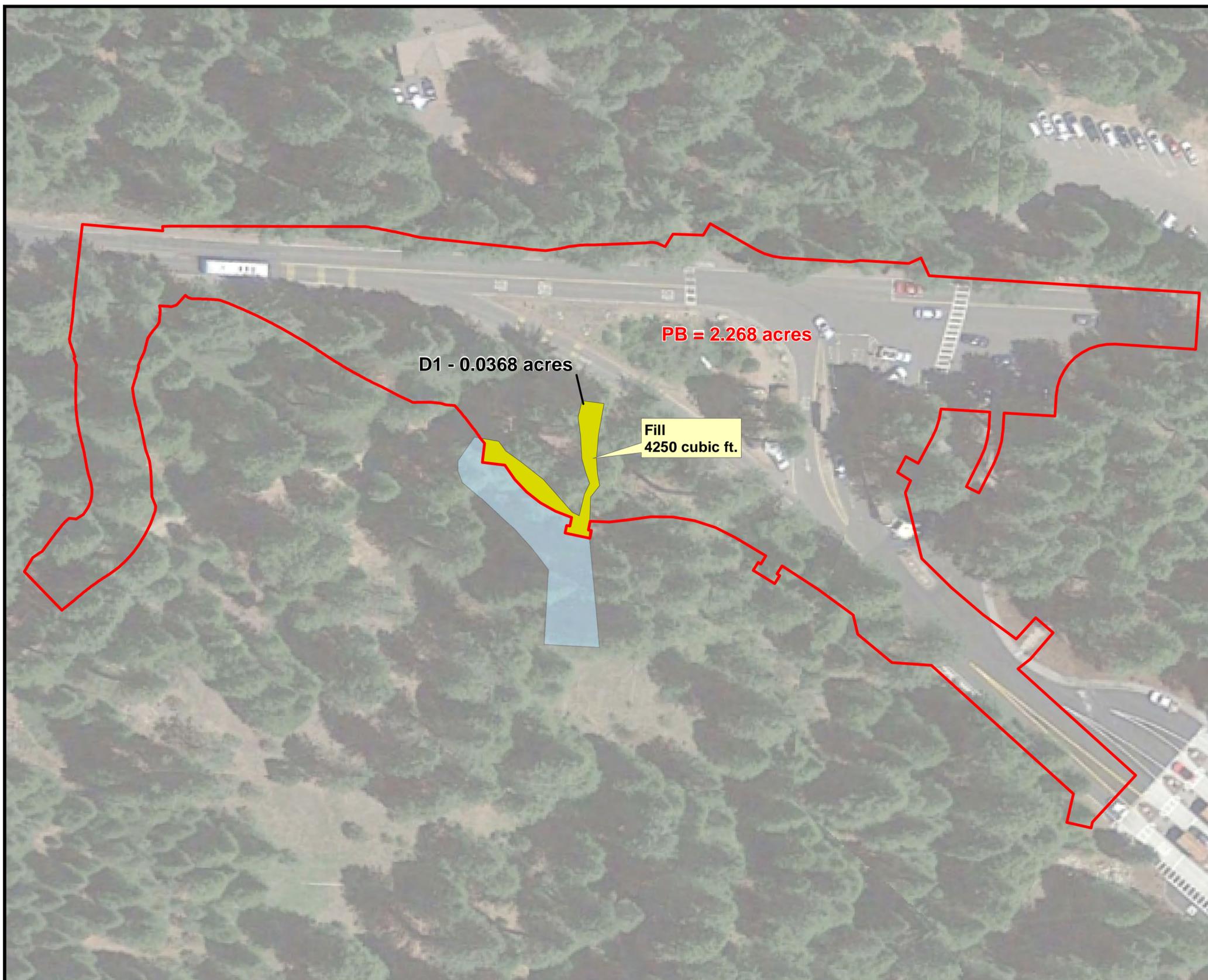


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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
False Easting: 500,000.0000
False Northing: 0.0000
Central Meridian: -117.0000
Scale Factor: 0.9996
Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000

1 inch = 50 feet
Created on April 8, 2016



Yosemite South Entrance Wetland Impacts



Legend

Impacts to Wetlands

Fill Volume (0.000 acres)

Impacts to Other Waters of the U.S., Drainage Ditch

Fill Volume (0.0368 acres)

Other Waters of the U.S.

Outside Project Boundary

Study Area Acreage (2.268 acres)

Project Boundary
(2.268 acres)



0 25 50 100 150
Feet

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
False Easting: 500,000.0000
False Northing: 0.0000
Central Meridian: -117.0000
Scale Factor: 0.9996
Latitude Of Origin: 0.0000

1 inch = 50 feet
Created on April 8, 2016