

Categorical Exclusion

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-075

PEPC Project Number: 16036

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal

Location: Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Denise Della Santina, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

This project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 E (4) - *Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. Environmental impacts will be minor or less when the project is implemented with the conditions stipulated under **Project Mitigations and Conditions** in **Section I** at the end of the attached *Environmental Screening Form*.

Additional supporting information for this determination and the stipulated conditions can be found in the following attachments (when checked):

- ☒ *Cultural Resource Effects Assessment Form (XXX)*
- ☐ *Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- ☐ *Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- ☐ *Park Management Terms and Conditions*
- ☐ Other:

C. DECISION

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 DO12 3.5 or 3.6 apply and the action is fully described in DO12, Section 3.4.

//R. Kevin Cann, Acting//

Michael J. Tollefson

8/1/06

Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

Attachments (2)

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617 (YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Denise Della Santina, Project Manager, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2006-075 Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal (16036)

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 E (4) - *Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. This project clearance is valid providing that you adhere to the conditions stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//R. Kevin Cann
Michael J. Tollefson

8/1/06
Date

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.*

Environmental Screening Form

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-075

PEPC Project Number: 16036

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal

Location: Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Denise Della Santina, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Stoneman Meadow is a modern remnant of the historical wetland environment that once comprised Yosemite Valley. The construction of roads and pathways around the south portion of the meadow has created discontinuities in surface and ground water flows. An abandoned dilapidated asphalt path bisects the meadow. This path is 200 meters long and approximately 1 meter wide and runs through the meadow at an angle that is perpendicular to the natural flow of water, which in turn alters the natural hydrological regime and the natural distribution of water throughout the meadow, resulting in changes in the native wetland meadow vegetation.

Asphalt will be broken up by hand, with pick axes and shovels, and will be removed from the site by means of wheel barrow. The use of a bobcat may be incorporated if mechanical breaking up of asphalt and removal becomes necessary. The use of the bobcat will be minimized in order to limit disturbance in the meadow.

Project work will take place in July and August, when meadow water saturation is low, in order to minimize compaction of meadow vegetation and soils. Work will be completed by Yosemite Fund volunteers and NPS Restoration crews. Volunteers will remove asphalt from the meadow on August 12-13. This asphalt, approximately 20 cubic yards, will be staged at the Curry Village Ice Rink parking area. On August 14 or 15, a loader and dump truck will be used to remove asphalt from the staging area. All asphalt will be removed from the Park and recycled at a local facility.

This path is a remnant of a larger trail built in the 1860-70's. The removal of this path has been reviewed by the Park's historians. It is not found on the List of Classified Structures or the National Register Nomination for the Valley. Removal of asphalt will have no impact on cultural resources. A site visit to the project area with a Park Archaeologist will occur prior to any work in order to define cultural site boundaries.

Table B1 – Background Information

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff are familiar with the site
2a. Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2b. Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2c. Is the project consistent with that plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2d. Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3a. Are there any interested or affected parties?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3b. Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
4a. Are there any affected agencies or tribes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4b. Has consultation been completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Table B2 – Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.)

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Vicinity map; see Attachment A.
2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Site Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map of project area identifying the trail and asphalt to be removed; see Attachment B.
4. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS

Are any impacts possible on the following resources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see section F. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist and the attached XXX.
2. From geohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: use of hand tools to break up and remove asphalt would produce minimal noise during project work.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asphalt removal and site restoration would improve improve water quality in the meadow.
6. Stream flow characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Marine or estuarine resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asphalt removal and site restoration would enhance the meadow.
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by this project.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project; see Section F. Historic Preservation Check List and the attached XXX.
19. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
21. Energy resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. Resource, including energy, conservation potential	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
25. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long-term management of this meadow would be improved by this project.
26. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Have material adverse effects on public health or safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated: see Condition 1, below.
2. Have adverse effects on such unique 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; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F. Historic Preservation Check List, below.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F. Historic Preservation Check List, below.
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18. Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

1. Submit a Safety Plan to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 209-379-1079) for review and approval before beginning any project work.

E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect, are there:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-Status Species Checklist must be completed and attached.				
Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

F. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Will there be ground disturbance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CA-MRP 0084 and 0827/H; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is the project within the boundary of an archeological or historic landscape or district?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite Valley Historic District; Yosemite Valley Archeological District; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
5a. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5c. Is there a historic property with a DOE and concurrence by the SHPO or a completed National Register form?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5d. Is there a cultural property requiring review under NHPA, Section 106?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite Valley Historic District
6. Would there be alteration of a structure or cultural landscape covered by 5a-d, above?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
If "yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST

Is the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Within designated Wilderness?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST

Does the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? If "yes", name the river(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Merced River
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal will improve the natural distribution of water throughout the meadow.
4. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal remains consistent with this river segment's classification of "Recreational."
5. Protect and enhance river ORVs?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal project will protect and enhance river ORVs.
6a. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6b. If "yes", is it consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
7. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal project remains consistent with the area's management zoning of "3-B Visitor Base and Lodging."
8a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8b. If 9a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8c. If 9a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to questions 2, 9b, or 9c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.				
Mitigations and Conditions:				
1. None				

I. NEPA Analysis and Approval Conditions

When implemented as detailed in the project description and following all Project Mitigations and Conditions listed below, this project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

DO12 E (4) - Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

1. Submit a Safety Plan to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 209-379-1079) for review and approval before beginning any project work.
2. Coordinate with DNC Park and Resorts at Yosemite (Brad Archer, Curry Village General Manager, 372-8327) for staging area location at Ice Rink. (Business and Revenue Management)

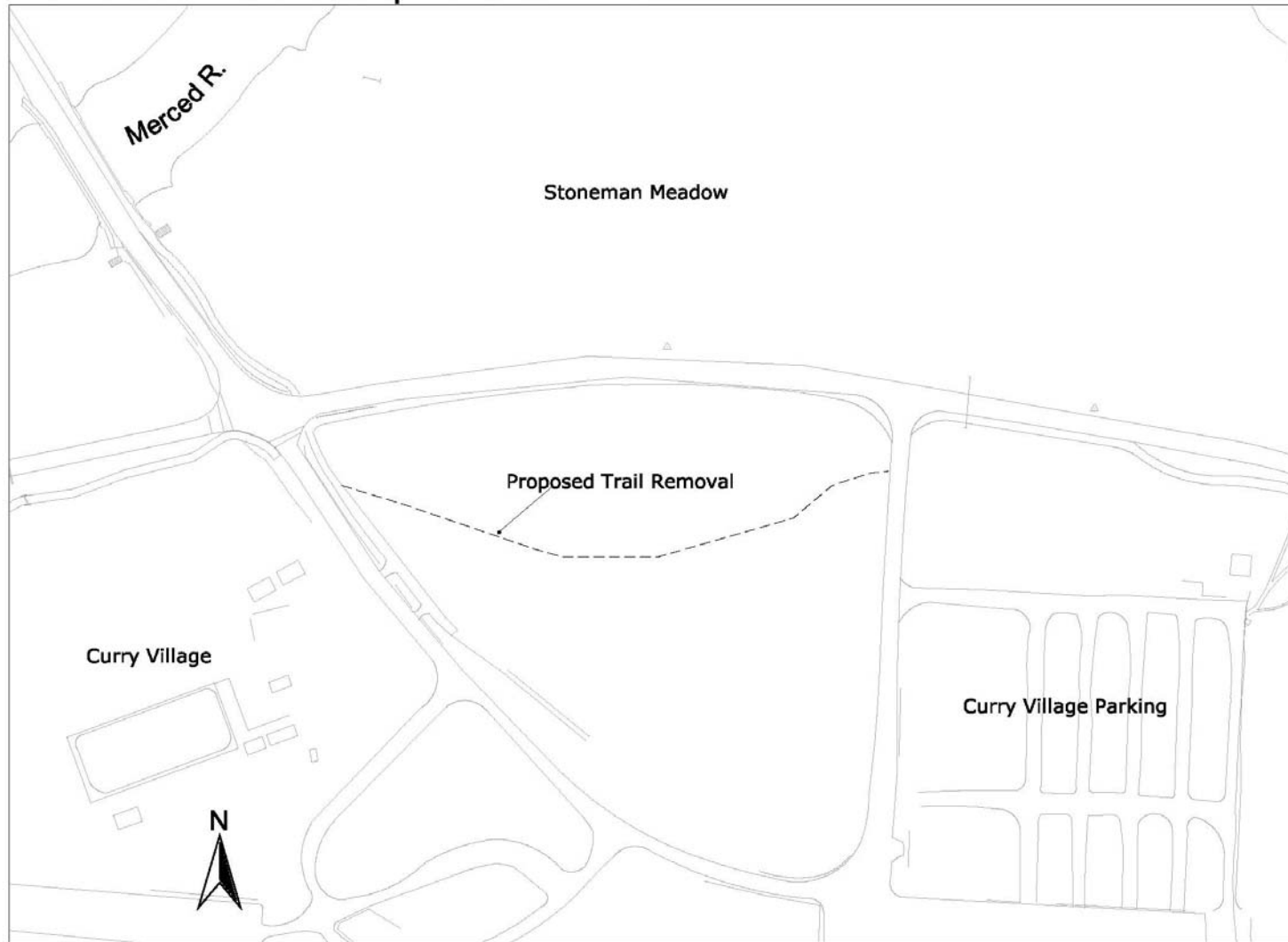
This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

<i>//GWColliver//</i>	<i>7/18/06</i>
Compliance Specialist	Date
 <i>//Mark A Butler//</i>	 <i>7/19/06</i>
Compliance Program Manager	Date
 <i>//Bill Delaney//</i>	 <i>7/31/06</i>
Chief, Project Management	Date

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

Attachment A

Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal



Office of Ecological Restoration And Vegetation Management

Map 1 Stoneman Meadow Vicinity Map

Attachment B



Photos 1-3 Showing Trail to be Removed from Stoneman Meadow

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: FEB06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-075

PEPC Project Number: 16036

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Stoneman Meadow Asphalt Removal

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Yosemite Valley, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Denise Della Santina, Resources Management Science, Yosemite National Park

Project Description: Stoneman Meadow is a modern remnant of the historical wetland environment that once comprised Yosemite Valley. The construction of roads and pathways around the south portion of the meadow has created discontinuities in surface and ground water flows. An abandoned dilapidated asphalt path bisects the meadow. This path is 200 meters long and approximately 1 meter wide and runs through the meadow at an angle that is perpendicular to the natural flow of water, which in turn alters the natural hydrological regime and the natural distribution of water throughout the meadow, resulting in changes in the native wetland meadow vegetation.

Asphalt will be broken up by hand, with pick axes and shovels, and will be removed from the site by means of wheel barrow. The use of a bobcat may be incorporated if mechanical breaking up of asphalt and removal becomes necessary. The use of the bobcat will be minimized in order to limit disturbance in the meadow.

Project work will take place in July and August, when meadow water saturation is low, in order to minimize compaction of meadow vegetation and soils. Work will be completed by Yosemite Fund volunteers and NPS Restoration crews. Volunteers will remove asphalt from the meadow on August 12-13. This asphalt, approximately 20 cubic yards, will be staged at the Curry Village Ice Rink parking area. On August 14 or 15, a loader and dump truck will be used to remove asphalt from the staging area. All asphalt will be removed from the Park and recycled at a local facility.

This path is a remnant of a larger trail built in the 1860-70's. The removal of this path has been reviewed by the Park's historians. It is not found on the List of Classified Structures or the National Register Nomination for the Valley. Removal of asphalt will have no impact on cultural resources. A site visit to the project area with a Park Archeologist will occur prior to any work in order to define cultural site boundaries.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR GIS map
b. Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Sample	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
f. List of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

** Sensitive documents not for duplication or distribution beyond park management, subject matter experts, and the project statutory compliance file.

B. DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify historic properties? If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yosemite Valley Historic District Yosemite Valley Archeological District
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural landscape, archeological deposits, ancient village
2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affected? Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
a. CA MRP 0084, 0827/H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ground disturbance.
b. Ancient Indian village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Ground disturbance.
c. Cultural Landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Meadow is landscape feature.
3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected? Yes	No		Explanation/Notes
a. Ancient Indian village	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
b. CA-MRP 0084	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
• Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Replace historic features/elements in kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Potentially affect presently unidentified historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

5. Describe any measures that are incorporated as part of this project that will be taken to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of prehistoric or historic fabric, setting, integrity, or data:

Coordinate removal with Park Archology Office to plan avoidance of archaeological sites.

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 6/19/06

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

C. SPECIALIST SECTION

Specialists: Your comments here (or attached) show that you have reviewed this proposal for conformity with requirements of *National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106*; with the 1995 *Service-wide Programmatic Agreement* (if applicable); with applicable parts of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; with the *NPS Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; and have given your best professional advice about this project and the issues relevant to the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties and further consultation needs.

Archeologist

Name: **Laura Kirn**

Date: 6/20/06

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions: Work shall be preceded by a site visit w/archeologist to review field measures and ensure no adverse effect.

Signature of Archeologist: //Laura Kirn//

Cultural Anthropologist

Name: **Sonny Montague**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: _____

Curator

Name: **Jonathan Bayless**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: _____

Historian

Name: **Charles Palmer**

Date: 6/20/06

Comments: No definitive correlation with historic trails

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: //Charles Palmer//

Historic Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: 6/20/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect: //Sueann Brown//

Historic Landscape Architect

Name: **Steven Torgerson**

Date: 6/20/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: //Steven D Torgerson//

Preservation Specialist

Name: **Rod Kennec**

Date: 6/22/06

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **"No Adverse Effect"**

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: //RB Kennec//

Native American Liaison

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: _____

**D. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION AND PARK 106
COORDINATOR REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Review by specialists:** The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations in Section C, above.

The foregoing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS management policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.

Reviewed and Accepted by:

Signature: //Niki Stephanie Nicholas//
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

Date: 7/10/06

2. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse Effect

- 3. Compliance Requirements:** The following is the park's assessment of Section 106 process needs and requirements for this undertaking.

☐ **Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation**

Consultation under 36 CFR is needed subsequent to the preparation of this form and its review by appropriate historic resource management advisors.

☒ **Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement**

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV. A of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement, and is listed in Stipulation IV. B, as:

6. Rehabilitation and Widening of Existing Trails, Walks, Paths, and Sidewalks within previously disturbed areas.

☐ **Plan-Related Undertaking**

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement and 36 CFR Part 800.

☐ **Undertaking Related to Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under a document such as a statewide agreement written in accordance with 37 CFR Part 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Agreement:

☐ **Flood-Recovery Related Undertaking**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the letter-based agreement between the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Council for Historic Preservation for "Highwater 97" flood repair and recovery

☐ **Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the park's 1999 programmatic agreement for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance; the undertaking meets the stipulations identified in Article VII.C.2.

4. Project Stipulations and Conditions

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effects above is consistent with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect or to mitigate potential adverse effects:

- a. None

Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator:

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**

Signature: //Jeannette Simons// Date: 7/11/06

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the recommendations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.

Signature of Superintendent: //R. Kevin Cann//

Date: 8/1/06

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