



## 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: Monica Buhler, Project Manager, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, 2007-052 Tenaya Lake Murphy Creek Picnic Area Restoration

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 D (1) - *Minor changes in amounts or types of visitor use for the purpose of ensuring visitor safety or resource protection in accordance with existing regulations.*

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 any conditions that may be stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//R. Kevin Cann//  
Michael J. Tollefson

06/05/07  
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.*

## Categorical Exclusion

(Version: OCT06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-052  
PEPC Project Number: 18404

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Title:** Tenaya Lake Murphy Creek Picnic Area Restoration

**Location:** Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne County, California

**Project Manager:** Monica Buhler, 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 (NEPA) analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 D (1) - *Minor changes in amounts or types of visitor use for the purpose of ensuring visitor safety or resource protection in accordance with existing regulations.*

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 negligible 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):

- ☒ *Environmental Screening Form*
- ☒ *Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)*
- ☐ *Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis*
- ☐ *Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determination*
- ☐ 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//  
Michael J. Tollefson, Superintendent

06/05/07  
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.*

## Environmental Screening Form

(Version: NOV06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-052

PEPC Project Number: 18404

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Title:** Tenaya Lake Murphy Creek Picnic Area Restoration

**Location:** Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne County, California

**Project Manager:** Monica Buhler, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

This project will restore native vegetation and protect the highly impacted subalpine lakeshore of the Murphy Creek Picnic area at the northwest end of Tenaya Lake. There are two compacted dirt parking areas (east and west) included in the project area. The poor definition of the parking areas has resulted in vehicles moving further into the forest and closer to the lakeshore (even onto the beach). This parking lot "creep" compacts soils, destroys native vegetation, and increases the area of impact. Picnic sites are not clearly defined and picnic tables have been moved to the beach where inappropriate campfire rings are established. There are many informal trails, from the parking areas to the lakeshore, braiding through the forest and the riparian areas of Murphy Creek. Delineation of parking areas, picnic sites and paths to the lake while focusing visitor use to less sensitive areas, would minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources.

Proposed Actions:

- Resolve hydrology problems in parking area by grading the area and possibly laying down gravel.
- Delineate parking areas with boulders and logs.
- Remove and replace old picnic tables and move and secure them in areas 100 feet or more from the high water level.
- Remove and rehabilitate inappropriate campfire rings and keep them at least 100 from the high water level.
- Establish a picnic site according to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Minimize the number of social trails.
- Remove, decompact (by hand and with a bobcat), mulch, and re-vegetate social trails and inappropriate picnic sites.
- Move garbage cans closer to the parking area.
- Install area information signs.

Site design will be coordinated by an inter-divisional group to address natural resource protection, maintenance issues, law enforcement issues, and visitor impacts. The design of an ADA accessible picnic site will be according to the most current guidelines and with recommendations from the park ADA requirements specialist.

Boulders would be gathered on-site and from staging locations in the park (i.e. south landing). The Forestry Crew would supply logs from the hazard tree removal program. Both would be assessed for weeds before moving them into the area.

The project area has been surveyed for cultural resources and no sites have been documented. There are three sites adjacent to the project area, but they would not be impacted.

This project will not address the parking or design of the Murphy Creek Trailhead which will be included in a larger Tuolumne area trailhead improvement project.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning and Resources Management and Science staff.
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Vicinity and location map; see Attachment A.
2. Drawings (e.g., design, construction)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photos of existing site conditions; see Attachment B.
5. Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>	Soil would be decompacted 4" deep throughout the project area.
2. From geohazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary air emissions during restoration.
4. Soundscapes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: temporary noises during restoration.
5. Water quality or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	Negligible: project work will include restoring wetland areas and redirecting visitors to established areas.
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 implementing this project; see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: delineating visitor use trails to protect sensitive areas would restrict direct access to some portions of the lake, but use would be directed to more resilient areas.
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Area restoration would enhance visitor experience by providing a less impacted, natural environment.
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, below.
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"/>	The park's long-term management includes reducing impacts to natural and cultural resources.
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**

<b>If implemented, would the proposed action:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
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"/>	Mitigated: the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, 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"/>	Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, 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 Job Hazard Analysis or Safety Plan to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 379-1079) for review and approval before beginning 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.				
<b>Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
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"/>	Soil decompaction will include 4" deep of soil disturbance.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project will avoid disturbing archeological resources.
3. Are there any Native American Indian traditional cultural resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Is there a historic property (a building, structure, feature, or all or any part of an archeological district or site, or a historic district or site, or any associated landscape element) that is listed or eligible for listing on the <i>National Register</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
5. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. 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"/>	
7. Is there any cultural resource requiring an evaluation of eligibility as a historic property under NHPA, Section 106, before an affect determination can be made?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tioga Road Cultural Landscape; inventory is incomplete; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect;" see the attached XXX.
8. Would there be alteration of any historic property or associated landscape element covered by 2-7, above?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to <u>any</u> of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and attached.				
<b>Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
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.				
<b>Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4. Diminish or other wise change the values for which the river was designated as a Wild and Scenic River? If "yes", explain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tenaya Lake and Tenaya Creek
5b. If 5a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5c. If 5a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If "yes" to questions 2, 5b, or 5c, then a WSRA Section 7 determination must be completed and attached.				
<b>Mitigations and Conditions:</b>				
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 3.4 D (1) - *Minor changes in amounts or types of visitor use for the purpose of ensuring visitor safety or resource protection in accordance with existing regulations.*

**Project Mitigations and Conditions:**

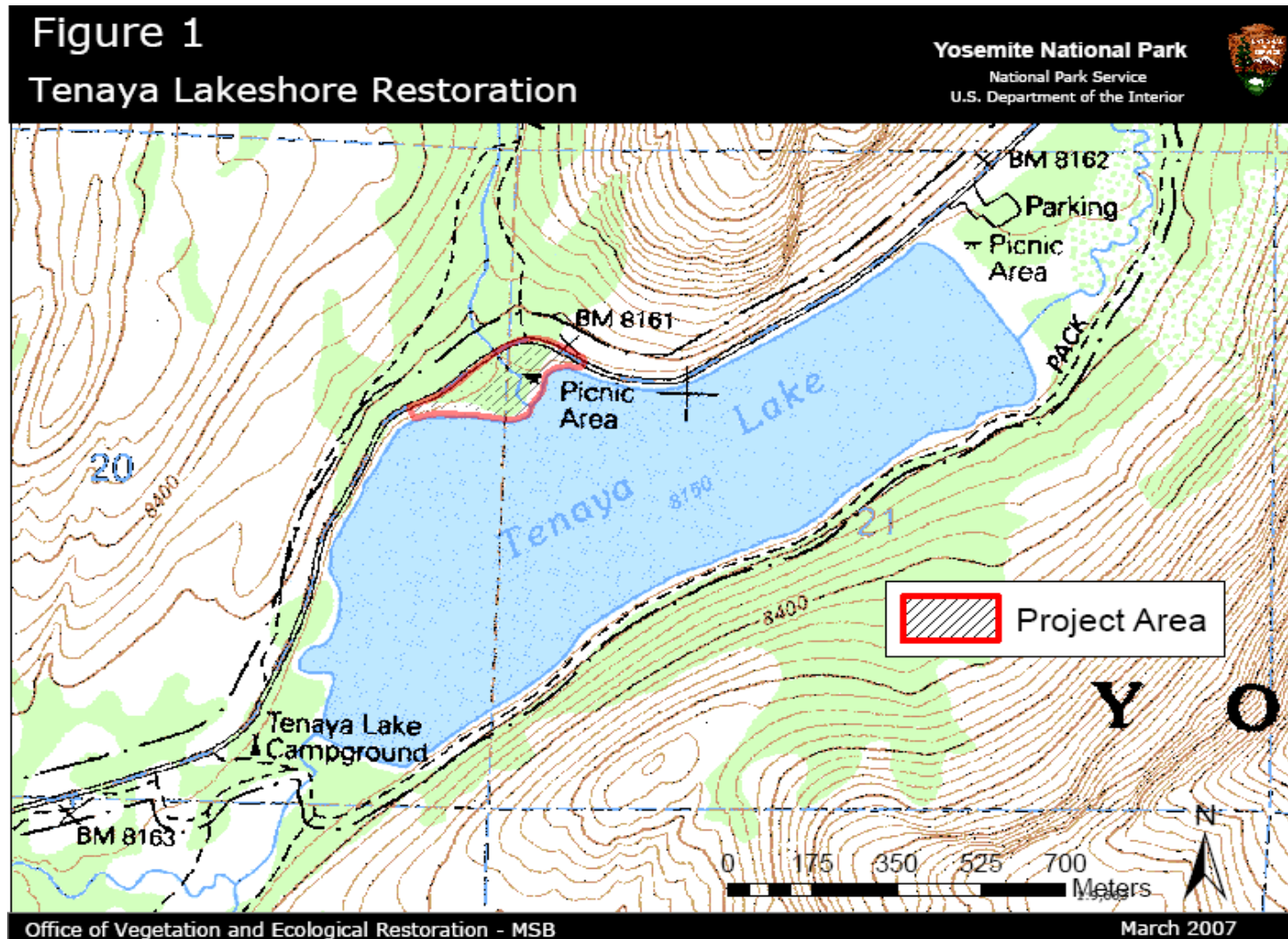
1. **Submit a Job Hazard Analysis or Safety Plan to the park Safety Officer (Roger Farmer, 379-1079) for review and approval before beginning project work. (Safety Office)**
2. **Coordinate site design with the park's planning staff (Gretchen Stromberg, 379-1006). (Planning)**

*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>//Renea Kennec//</i>	<i>05/29/07</i>
<b>Compliance Specialist</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>//Mark Butler//</i>	<i>05/29/07</i>
<b>Compliance Program Manager</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>//Bill Delaney//</i>	<i>06/04/07</i>
<b>Chief, Project Management</b>	<b>Date</b>

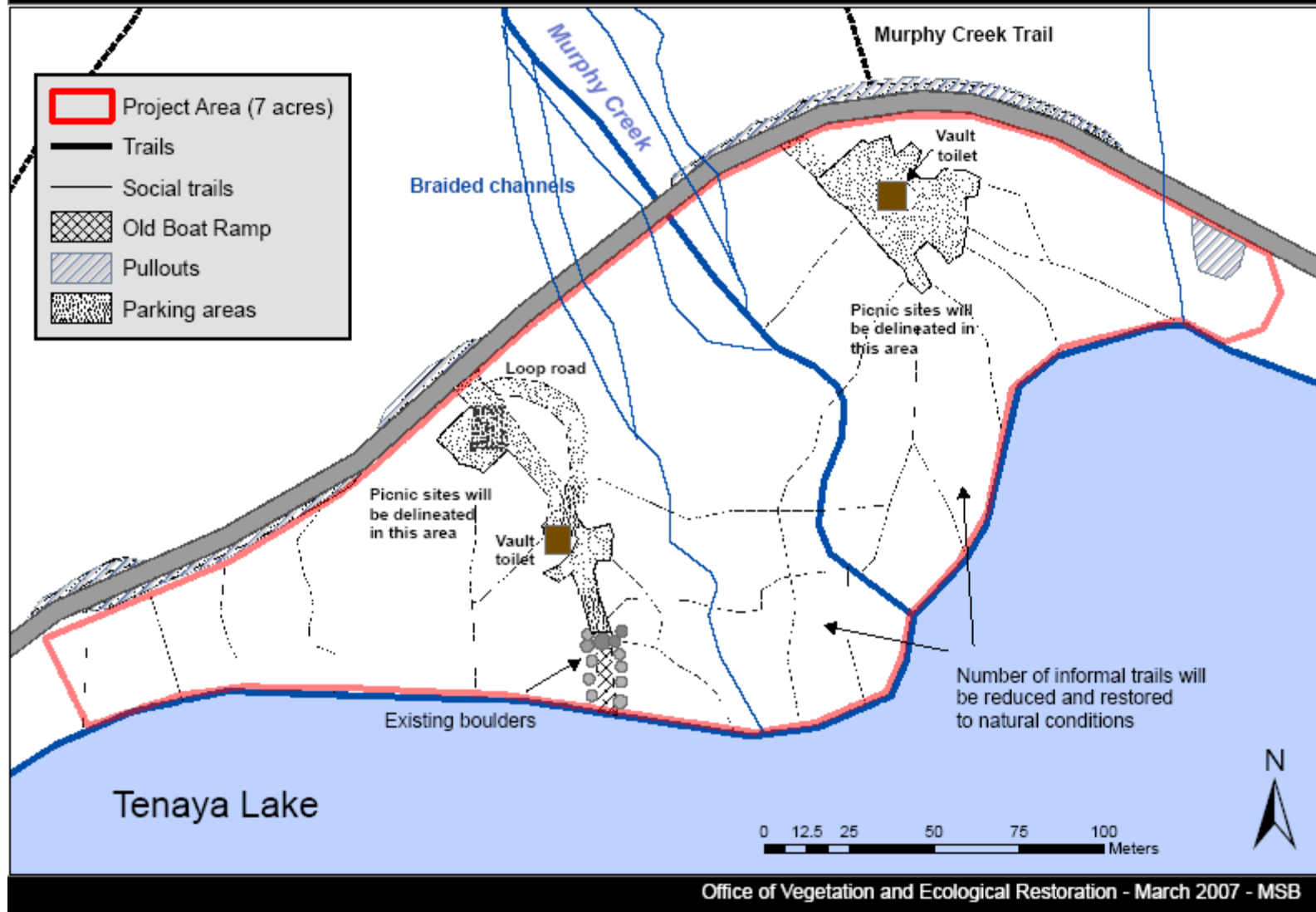
*The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.*

## Attachment A



**Figure 2**  
**TENAYA LAKESHORE RESTORATION**

Yosemite National Park  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior





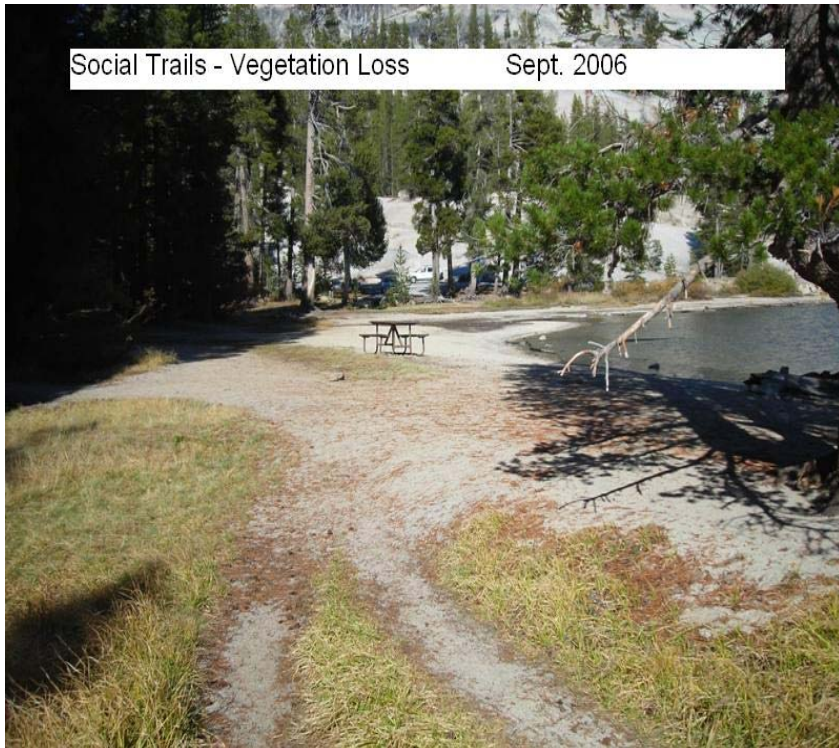
## Attachment B





Social Trails - Vegetation Loss

Sept. 2006



## Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-052

PEPC Project Number: 18404

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

**Title:** Tenaya Lake Murphy Creek Picnic Area Restoration

**Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:**

Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne County, California

Murphy Creek Picnic Area

**Project Manager:** Monica Buhler, Resources Management and Science, Yosemite National Park

**Project Description:** This project will restore native vegetation and protect the highly impacted subalpine lakeshore of the Murphy Creek Picnic area at the northwest end of Tenaya Lake. There are two compacted dirt parking areas (east and west) included in the project area. The poor definition of the parking areas has resulted in vehicles moving further into the forest and closer to the lakeshore (even onto the beach). This parking lot "creep" compacts soils, destroys native vegetation, and increases the area of impact. Picnic sites are not clearly defined and picnic tables have been moved to the beach where inappropriate campfire rings are established. There are many informal trails, from the parking areas to the lakeshore, braiding through the forest and the riparian areas of Murphy Creek. Delineation of parking areas, picnic sites and paths to the lake while focusing visitor use to less sensitive areas, would minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources.

**Proposed Actions:**

- Resolve hydrology problems in parking area by grading the area and possibly laying down gravel.
- Delineate parking areas with boulders and logs.
- Remove and replace old picnic tables and move and secure them in areas 100 feet or more from the high water level.
- Remove and rehabilitate inappropriate campfire rings and keep them at least 100 from the high water level.
- Establish a picnic site according to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.
- Minimize the number of social trails.
- Remove, decompact (by hand and with a bobcat), mulch, and re-vegetate social trails and inappropriate picnic sites.
- Move garbage cans closer to the parking area.
- Install area information signs.

Site design will be coordinated by an inter-divisional group to address natural resource protection, maintenance issues, law enforcement issues, and visitor impacts. The design of an ADA accessible picnic site will be according to the most current guidelines and with recommendations from the park ADA requirements specialist.

Boulders would be gathered on-site and from staging locations in the park (i.e. south landing). The Forestry Crew would supply logs from the hazard tree removal program. Both would be assessed for weeds before moving them into the area.

The project area has been surveyed for cultural resources and no sites have been documented. There are three sites adjacent to the project area, but they would not be impacted.

**Yosemite National Park**  
**Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)**

Compliance Tracking No. **2007-052**

This project will not address the parking or design of the Murphy Creek Trailhead which will be included in a larger Tuolumne area trailhead improvement project.

<b>1. Attached Sensitive Information**</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Explanation/Source/Notes</b>
a. Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CR GIS Map
b. Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
c. Site Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
d. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
e. Sample	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
f. List of Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
g. Other (Explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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
<b>1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify historic properties?</b> If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tioga Road CLI, Incomplete YOSE1985F
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural landscape
<b>2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:</b>	<b>Affected?</b>		<b>Explanation/Notes</b>	
	Yes	No		
a. Cultural landscape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore and enhance visitor experience.	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:</b>	<b>Affected?</b>		<b>Explanation/Notes</b>	
	Yes	No		
a. Uninventoried traditional American Indian use area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APE in existing developed area.	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>4. The proposed action will:</b>	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	Project will avoid disturbing archeological resources.
• 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"/>	Project will avoid any deterioration.
• 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:**

There are three documented sites north and west of the project area and these areas will be avoided (consulted with Laura Kirn 4/05). Dave Humphrey will investigate whether the launch road is classified as historic and will advise on future actions.

**Checklist prepared by:** Jeannette Simons

**Date:** 04/10/07

**Title:** Historic Preservation Officer

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**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 *Servicewide 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.

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**Archeologist**

Name: **Laura Kirn**

Date: 04/10/07

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved      Yes: ☒      No: ☐

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >> **No Effect**

Recommended Conditions: Avoid archeological resources to the north and west of the project area.  
contact archeology office for onsite consultation to ensure avoidance.

Signature of Archeologist: //Laura Kirn//

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**Cultural Anthropologist**

Name: **Sonny Montague**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Cultural Anthropologist: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Curator**

Name: **Jonathan Bayless**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: <Choose Effect> or write it here >>

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Curator: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yosemite National Park  
Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)**

Compliance Tracking No. **2007-052**

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**Historian**

Name: **Charles Palmer**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historic Architect**

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Historical Landscape Architect**

Name: **Dave Humphrey**

Date: 04/11/07

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >> No Effect**

Recommended Conditions: None

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: //Dave Humphrey//

**Yosemite National Park  
Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE-XXX)**

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Compliance Tracking No. **2007-052**

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**Preservation Specialist**

Name: **Rod Kennec**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Native American Liaison**

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_

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**<Enter Specialist Title>**

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect: **<Choose Effect> or write it here >>**

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of <Enter Specialist's Title>: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Nicholas//  
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

**Date:** 04/12/07

- 2. 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:

<Choose Type of Undertaking>

☐ **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:** <Enter Agreement Information>

☐ **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.

**3. Assessment of Effects: No Adverse Effect**

**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: 04/17/07

**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 Call//

**Date:** 06/05/07

Michael J. Tollefson

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