



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, 2007-049 Tuolumne Grove Restoration and Fence Installation

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 C (18) - *Installation of fencing enclosures, exclosures, or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.*

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

8/16/07
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: 2007-049

PEPC Project Number: 18180

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Tuolumne Grove Restoration and Fence Installation

Location: Crane Flat, Mariposa County, California

Project Manager: Denise Sella 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 (NEPA) analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 C (18) - *Installation of fencing enclosures, enclosures, or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.*

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

8/16/07
Date

Original: Statutory Compliance File
cc: Project Proponent

Attachments (3)

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: 2007-049

PEPC Project Number: 18180

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Title: Tuolumne Grove Restoration and Fence Installation

Location: Crane Flat, Tuolumne County, California

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

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

The Tuolumne Grove, located off Tioga Road in the Crane Flat area, is one of only 3 areas in Yosemite where visitors can experience the grandeur of the giant sequoia, a park rare species. As a result of high visitor use, the soil around the base of many sequoias is becoming compacted, resulting in reduced water absorption and compromising the health of the trees. Informal trails can be found throughout the project site further facilitating erosion and damage to tree roots and other native plants. Heavy winter precipitation and spring runoff has exacerbated these problems. Muddy trails are resulting in the increased number of informal trails and natural resource impacts. Blocked and damaged culverts have caused water to be diverted towards the Giant Sequoia named "Big Red", as well as causing damage to the road.

Work at the Tuolumne Grove will consist of the elimination and ecological restoration of informal trails and trampled areas at the base of the Sequoias along the established loop trail and road. This includes mulching and the addition of 200 feet of stacked three-rail fence to protect tree roots and keep visitors on formal trails. The only soil disturbance that will occur will be installation of rebar at 17 fence junctions. Staging for fencing will occur in the picnic area and last approximately 4 days. Erosion on hillsides, used by visitors to take pictures, will be stabilized and restored. Sustainable access to viewing areas will be provided. A 40-50 foot section of the formal trail from the picnic area currently passes through a spring. This trail is wet most of the year and informal trails have been made by visitors avoiding muddy areas. This portion of the trail will be rerouted out of the wetland area approximately 5 feet upslope to a more ecologically stable area. This will help to improve visitor experience by protecting the wetland area and providing better trail access. In the project area, approximately 300 feet of existing formal trail will be rehabilitated. An old road/informal trail connecting the north part of the outer loop trail to the Tuolumne Grove road is leading to the formation of informal trails and natural resource impacts. About 20 feet on each end of this old road will be disguised and mulched and protected from erosion. The Branch of History, Architecture and Landscape and the Branch of Archeology have been consulted regarding the cultural landscape of the area and possible impacts. All project work has been determined not to impact areas of cultural significance. The Vegetation and Ecological Restoration Branch will work with Roads and Trails to solve hydrology problems by clearing ditches and culverts near "Big Red", repairing asphalt edges of the road that are a safety issue, and adding water bars and trail improvements to increase trail safety, decrease erosion, and protect exposed Sequoia roots.

About 20% of this project will take place in designated wilderness. 90% of the restoration work in wilderness will take place in a way that will not affect wilderness health and character (mulching and placing of slash to aid in the ecological rehabilitation of areas where informal trails exist). The proposed addition of 175 feet of new fence will take place within designated wilderness (115 feet beyond the wilderness boundary). This proposed action will take place in order to protect a highly impacted area that affects a giant sequoia, one of the few found in designated wilderness. Attempts

will be made to install this fence with the use of a hand powered brace and bit in order to protect wilderness character. However, if this process becomes infeasible in completing the work, a powered drill may be used. A Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis is in process.

Work will be completed by Vegetation and Ecological Restoration crews. Yosemite Fund volunteers will also take part in volunteer work weekends to help with fence building, trail rehabilitation, and restoration of impacted areas.

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"/>	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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tuolumne Grove 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"/>	Tuolumne Grove Trail map; 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 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 disturbance includes rebar installation; 1" diameter by 36" deep.
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	Trail will be rerouted away from the wetland area to a more ecologically stable area.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This project will protect Giant Sequoias, a park rare species, from compaction and soil erosion due to high visitor use.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigated; see Section D. Condition 2, Mandatory Criteria, below.
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Protection of the Giant Sequoias will enhance the visitor experience by allowing the natural processes to occur.
18. Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The assessment of effect is "No 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 long-term management of resources includes the protection of the park's Giant Sequoias.
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"/>	Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Effect;" see Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist and the attached XXX.
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"/>	
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"/>	Mitigated: see Condition 2, below.
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"/>	Mitigated: see Condition 2, below.
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:

- Develop and submit a Safety Plan to the park Safety Office (Roger Farmer, 379-1079) for review and approval before proceeding with this work.
- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Giant Sequoia; grove restoration will include mitigating impacts.
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:

- 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 disturbance includes rebar installation; 1" in diameter by 36" deep.
2. Are there any archeological sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>	
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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.				

Mitigations and Conditions:

- None

G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST

Is the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Within designated Wilderness?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negligible: see the attached Minimum Requirement Analysis.
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:

- 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5b. If 5a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5c. If 5a 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, 5b, or 5c, 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 3.4 C (18) - *Installation of fencing enclosures, exclosures, or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations.*

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

- 1. Develop and submit a Safety Plan to the park Safety Office (Roger Farmer, 379-1079) for review and approval before proceeding with this work. (Safety Office)**
- 2. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1355. (Environmental Planning and Compliance)**

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.

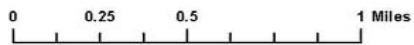
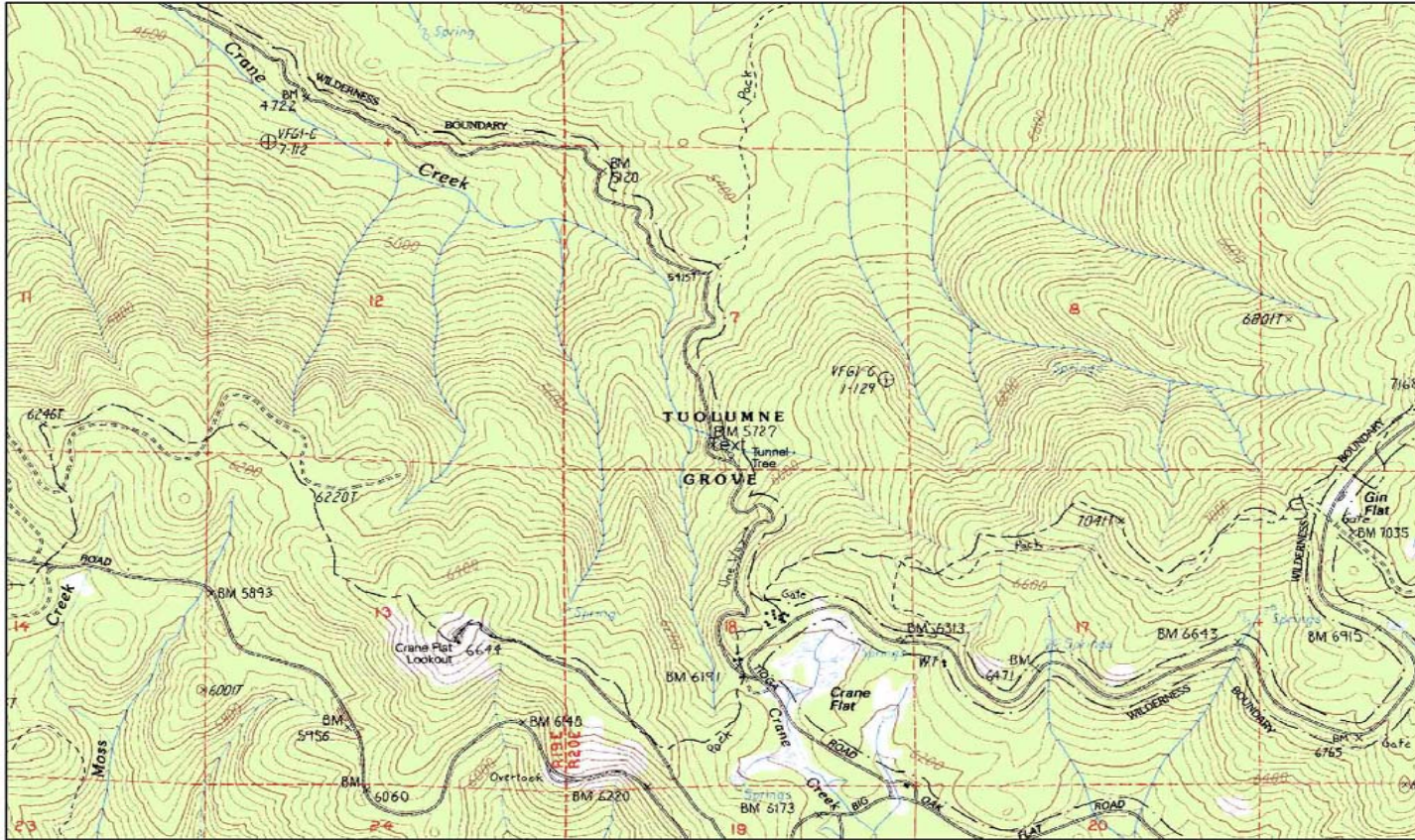
//Renea Kennec// 6/29/07
Compliance Specialist **Date**

//Mark A. Butler// 8/16/07
Compliance Program Manager **Date**

//Bill Delaney// 8/16/07
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



Greater Tuolumne Grove Area

Preservation Assessment Form (YOSE XXX)

(Version: AUG06)

Compliance Tracking Number: 2007-049

PEPC Project Number: 18180

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

Title: Tuolumne Grove Restoration and Fence Installation

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect:

Tuolumne Grove, Mariposa County, California

Tuolumne Grove

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

Project Description: The Tuolumne Grove, located off Tioga Road in the Crane Flat area, is one of only 3 areas in Yosemite where visitors can experience the grandeur of the giant sequoia, a park rare species. As a result of high visitor use, the soil around the base of many sequoias is becoming compacted, resulting in reduced water absorption and compromising the health of the trees. Informal trails can be found throughout the project site further facilitating erosion and damage to tree roots and other native plants. Heavy winter precipitation and spring runoff has exacerbated these problems. Muddy trails are resulting in the increased number of informal trails and natural resource impacts. Blocked and damaged culverts have caused water to be diverted towards the Giant Sequoia named "Big Red", as well as causing damage to the road.

Work at the Tuolumne Grove will consist of the elimination and ecological restoration of informal trails and trampled areas at the base of the Sequoias along the established loop trail and road. This includes mulching and the addition of 200 feet of stacked three-rail fence to protect tree roots and keep visitors on formal trails. The only soil disturbance that will occur will be installation of rebar at 17 fence junctions. Staging for fencing will occur in the picnic area and last approximately 4 days. Erosion on hillsides, used by visitors to take pictures, will be stabilized and restored. Sustainable access to viewing areas will be provided. A 40-50 foot section of the formal trail from the picnic area currently passes through a spring. This trail is wet most of the year and informal trails have been made by visitors avoiding muddy areas. This portion of the trail will be rerouted out of the wetland area approximately 5 feet upslope to a more ecologically stable area. This will help to improve visitor experience by protecting the wetland area and providing better trail access. In the project area, approximately 300 feet of existing formal trail will be rehabilitated. An old road/informal trail connecting the north part of the outer loop trail to the Tuolumne Grove road is leading to the formation of informal trails and natural resource impacts. About 20 feet on each end of this old road will be disguised and mulched and protected from erosion. The Branch of History, Architecture and Landscape and the Branch of Archeology have been consulted regarding the cultural landscape of the area and possible impacts. All project work has been determined not to impact areas of cultural significance. The Vegetation and Ecological Restoration Branch will work with Roads and Trails to solve hydrology problems by clearing ditches and culverts near "Big Red", repairing asphalt edges of the road that are a safety issue, and adding water bars and trail improvements to increase trail safety, decrease erosion, and protect exposed Sequoia roots.

About 20% of this project will take place in designated wilderness. 90% of the restoration work in wilderness will take place in a way that will not affect wilderness health and character (mulching and

placing of slash to aid in the ecological rehabilitation of areas where informal trails exist). The proposed addition of 175 feet of new fence will take place within designated wilderness (115 feet beyond the wilderness boundary). This proposed action will take place in order to protect a highly impacted area that affects a giant sequoia, one of the few found in designated wilderness. Attempts will be made to install this fence with the use of a hand powered brace and bit in order to protect wilderness character. However, if this process becomes infeasible in completing the work, a powered drill may be used. A Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis is in process.

Work will be completed by Vegetation and Ecological Restoration crews. Yosemite Fund volunteers will also take part in volunteer work weekends to help with fence building, trail rehabilitation, and restoration of impacted areas.

1. Attached Sensitive Information**	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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
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"/>	YOSE 1975A
a. Would the proposed action affect a known historic property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No known HP in the area.

2. List all Historic Properties in the Area of Potential Effect:	Affected?		Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No	
a. None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3. List resources in the Area of Potential Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Affected?		Explanation/Notes
	Yes	No	
a. Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b.	<input 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 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"/>	
• 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:

Checklist prepared by: Jeannette Simons

Date: 08/09/07

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:

Comments:

Ground Disturbance Involved

Yes: No:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Archeologist: _____

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:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historian: _____

Historic Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Architect: _____

Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **Dave Humphrey**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Historic Landscape Architect: _____

Preservation Specialist

Name: **Rod Kenec**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions: Recommended Conditions

Signature of Preservation Specialist: _____

Native American Liaison

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

Recommended Conditions:

Signature of Native American Liaison: _____

<Enter Specialist Title>

Name:

Date:

Comments:

Assessment of Effect:

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: _____ **Date:** _____
Chief of Resources Management & Science Division

- 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 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: _____ Date: _____

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: _____ **Date:** _____

Michael J. Tollefson