



IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Memorandum

To: Sue Beatty, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2009-032 Carlon Riparian and Meadow Restoration (25593)

The Management Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined that there:

- Will not be any effect on threatened, endangered, or rare species and/or their critical habitat.
- Will not be any effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- Will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and NHPA compliance requirements as presented above. Project plans and specifications are approved and construction and/or project implementation can commence.

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

- Per YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.B and C., national register eligibility of the archeological site will be determined. If the site is significant, the restoration project will be designed to avoid adverse effects, either through sensitive project design & implementation, or archeological data recovery.
- Coordinate consultation with Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians during archeological investigations to determine whether American Indian deposits occur in the area of investigations.

//David V. Uberuaga//
David V. Uberuaga

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

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: **2009-032 Carlon Riparian and Meadow Restoration**

PEPC ID: **25593**

Project Description: The Carlon project area (3.5 acres) is on the border of Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest near the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, just inside the wilderness boundary. Carlon is a popular destination for visitors. The area is an historic-era archeological site, representing the remains of the Carl Inn and the historic Big Oak Flat park entrance road. Bottles, pipes and other historic artifacts from the Carl Inn (1916-1939) lay above ground in the meadow. Rangers in the area have observed probable cases of looting, such as holes dug in the meadow area and social trails to artifact locations. The purpose of this project is to protect and document archeological remains of the Carlon Inn and historic Big Oak Flat Road and restore natural hydrologic processes of the riparian area and adjacent meadow. The project is funded, with a planned time span of 2 years.

Proposed Actions:

- Remove 370 feet of gabions from the riverbank. Alder and cedar trees that are growing through the gabions may be destabilized during removal of structures (approximately 10 trees, up to 18" dbh).
- Recontour bank to natural topography.
- Revegetate and stabilize the bank using willows and other riparian vegetation found on site.
- Remove abandoned utilities; fill material and at least 15 cubic yards of asphalt from the meadow. Archeological soil probes will help determine the extent of these materials.
- Decompact soil and recontour the meadow to natural topography after removal of asphalt, fill, and utilities.
- Remove non-native plants, encroaching conifer saplings and disperse native seed in the meadow to help reestablish native plant communities and prevent encroachment by invasive plants.
- Install temporary fence outside of the wilderness area to protect restoration efforts.
- Monitor channel morphology and vegetation establishment pre and post restoration.
- Complete archeological investigations to determine national register eligibility.
- Install an interpretive sign outside wilderness explaining history of area and restoration efforts as it is a population destination. The nearby Evergreen Lodge takes groups there to hike, swim and fish. The trailhead sees about 30-40 visitors a day, with larger numbers on peak weekends.

Approximately 370 feet of the riverbank are lined with gabions (metal cages filled with river rock). Erosion control structures like gabions inhibit the natural hydrological processes of the river, constrict the floodplain and can impede growth of native riparian vegetation. In some places, vegetation has been

established through and around the gabions. Several of the gabions that line the riverbank no longer contain rocks, and in some places the river is starting to cut into the bank behind the structures.

The meadow contains at least 15 cubic yards of visible asphalt from an old road bed. More asphalt is likely to be found under a layer of soil, but the amount is unknown. There may also be non-native fill material under the asphalt or under historic building locations dating to construction and operation of the Carl Inn. It is likely the soil is compacted under the asphalt and fill. There are several abandoned pipes in the meadow left after demolition of numerous buildings that were on the site. Many of these pipes continue below ground to an unknown depth. Asphalt, fill material, compacted soil, and pipes discourage vegetation establishment and impact hydrologic functioning of the meadow.

The tools to be used for implementation will include; hand tools, stock, and heavy equipment including an excavator, loader, backhoe and dump trucks. Restoration design will be coordinated by an interdivisional group to address natural and cultural resource issues, wilderness issues and visitor impacts. Park History, Architecture, and Landscapes staff has been consulted on this project. Archeological resources will be assessed, documented and treated to avoid adverse impacts. Staging will occur outside of the wilderness area near Old Big Oak Flat road, in previously disturbed areas.

Project Locations:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- **Per YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.B and C., national register eligibility of the archeological site will be determined. If the site is significant, the restoration project will be designed to avoid adverse effects, either through sensitive project design & implementation, or archeological data recovery.**
- **Coordinate consultation with Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians during archeological investigations to determine whether American Indian deposits occur in the area of investigations.**
- **Obtain appropriate permits from Army Corp of Engineers and California Regional Water Quality Control Board consultation.**

Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

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 (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Acting Park Superintendent //David V. Uberuaga//

Date 9/04/09

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*



**ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)
DO-12 APPENDIX 1**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 DM revisions and proposed DO-12 changes

Today's Date: **August 6, 2009**

Date Form Initiated: **08/06/2009**

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2009-032 Carlon Riparian and Meadow Restoration**

PEPC Project Number: **25593**

Project Type: **Ecological Restoration (OTHER)**

Project Location: County, State: **Tuolumne, California**

Project Leader: **Sue Beatty**

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		X			Archeological surveys include shovel probes 18" in diameter and up to 3' deep; trenches include 20' long x 3' wide x 6' deep; and 370' of soil disturbance when removing erosion control structures.
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality		X			Some temporary dust emissions during removal of erosion control

					structure.
4. Soundscapes	X				Project has minimal noises associated with the restoration.
5. Water quality or quantity		X			Asphalt removal will allow the soil to become more permeable and promote sheet flow.
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	X				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites		X			Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site; no historic properties will be affected by implementing this project.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	X				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				An enhanced visitor experience and natural environment will be provided by the removal of the non-native structures.
18. Archeological resources		X			Archeological resources and National Registry

					eligibility will be determined during this project.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	X				
20. Cultural landscapes	X				
21. Ethnographic resources		X			Native American monitoring will occur during all ground disturbance activities.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				Restoration of natural areas meets the park's long-term goals of managing resources.
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X		

B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X		Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		X		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		X		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive		X		

Order 13007)?				
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

D. OTHER INFORMATION

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **No**

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **No**

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **No**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **Yes**

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **No**

E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
David V. Uberuaga	Acting Superintendent
Jim Hammett	Acting Deputy Superintendent
Kristina Rylands	Acting Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Sue Beatty	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance
	Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

Recommended:

Compliance Specialist	Date
<u>//Renea Kenec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kenec	<u>8/18/09</u>
<u>//Elexis J. Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>9/01/09</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>9/02/09</u>

Approved:

Acting Superintendent	Date
<u>//David V. Uberuaga//</u> David V. Uberuaga	<u>9/04/09</u>

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

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **August 6, 2009**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Number: 25593

Project Type: Ecological Restoration (OTHER)

Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California

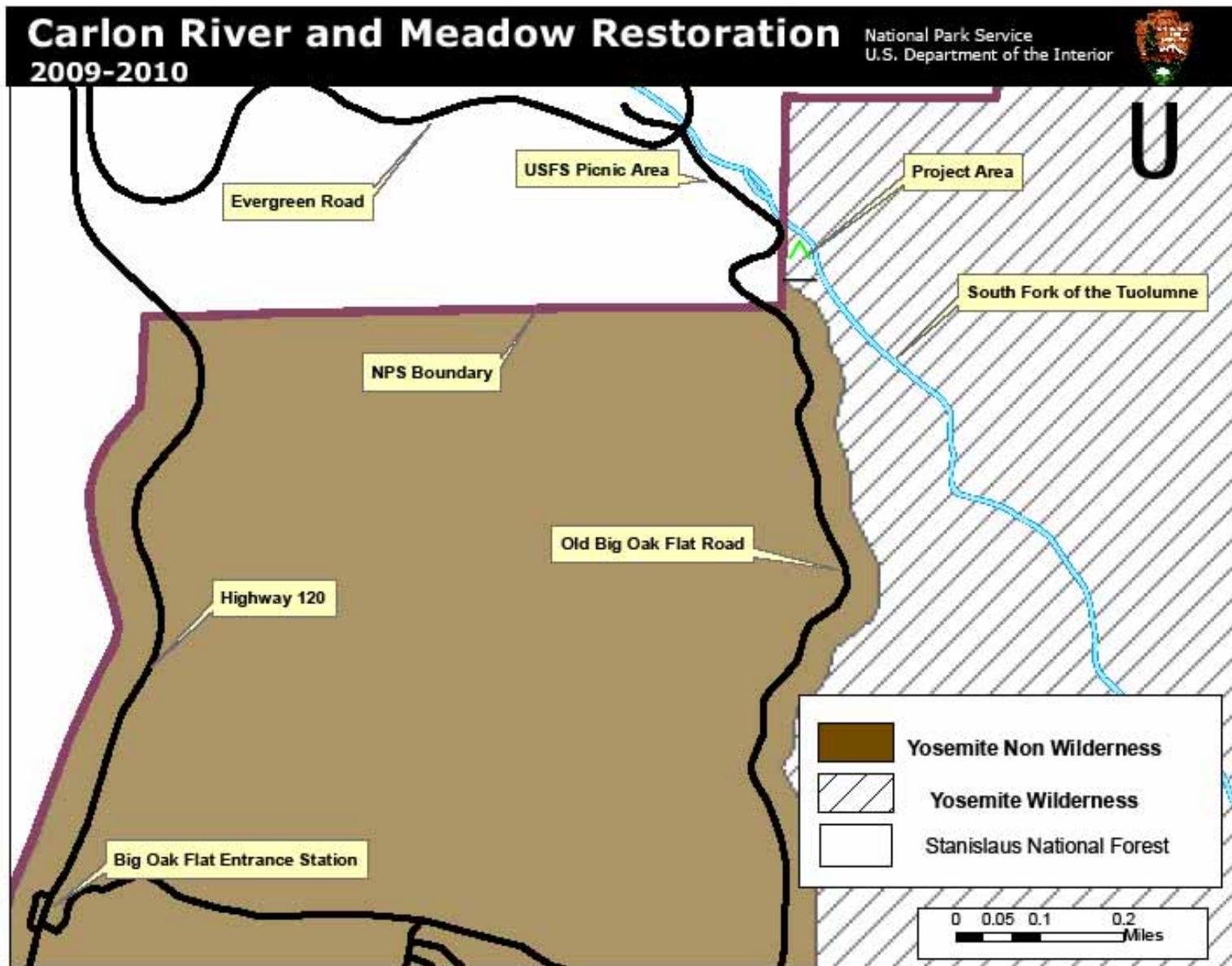
Project Manager: Sue Beatty

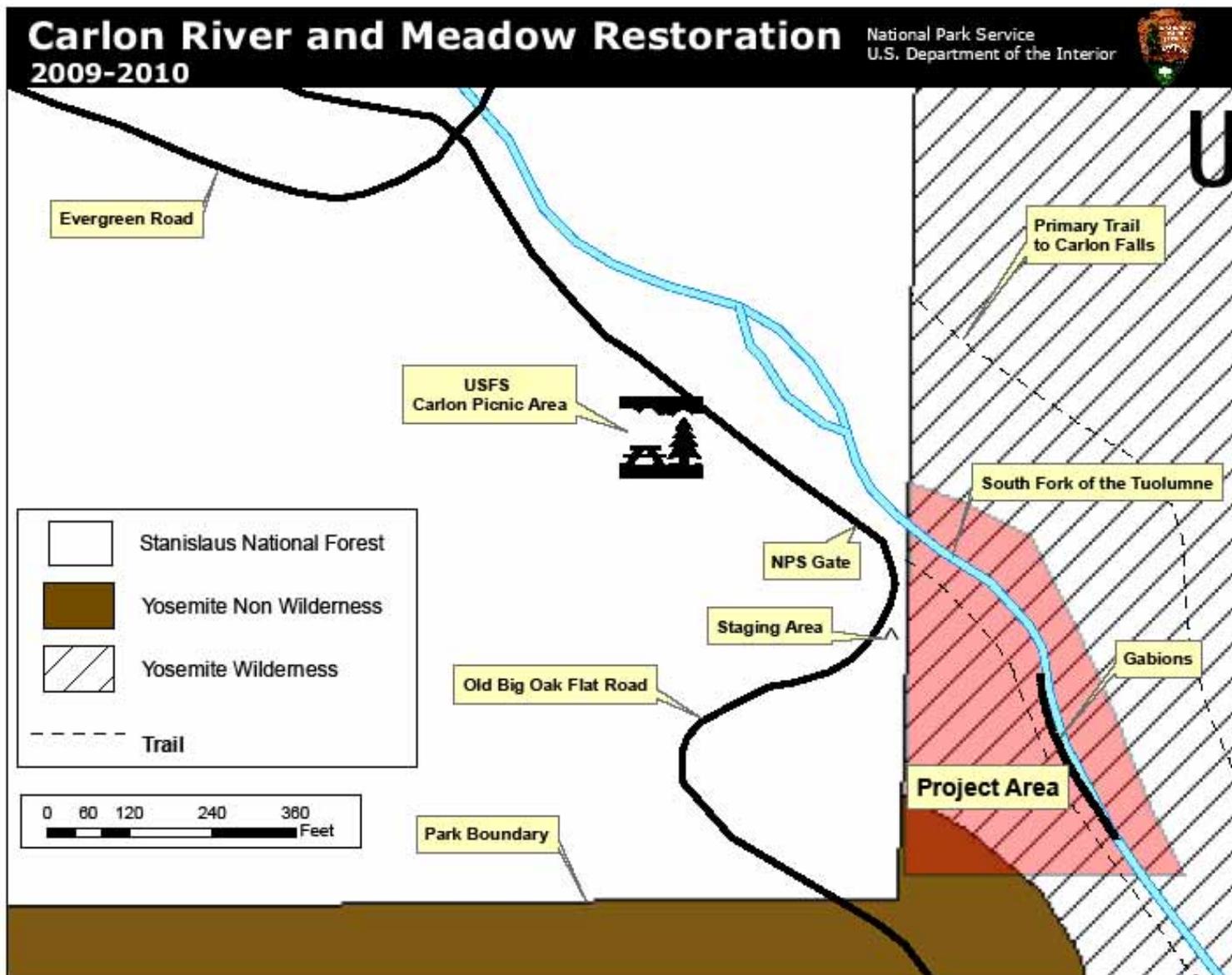
Project Title: 2009-032 Carlon Riparian and Meadow Restoration

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
2. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		X		
3. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		X		
4. Park rare plants or vegetation?		X		
5. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		X		
6.NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
7. Entail ground disturbance?	X			Archeological surveys include shovel probes 18" in diameter and up to 3' deep; trenches include 20' long x 3' wide x 6' deep; and 370' of soil disturbance when removing erosion control structures.
8. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?		X		To be determined during the project.
9. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		X		
10. Has a National Register form been completed?		X		
11. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		X		
12.WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
13. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		X		
14. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		X		
15. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the		X		

area?				
16. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			X	
17. Protect and enhance river ORVs?			X	
18. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?		X		
19. If Yes, remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?			X	
20. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?			X	
21. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?	X			South Fork of the Tuolumne River.
22. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		X		
23. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		X		
100. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
101. Within designated Wilderness?	X			Minimum Requirement Analysis is attached.
102. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		X		





Asphalt in Meadow



Gabions on Riverbank



Utilities in Meadow





ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: **Yosemite NP** Park District: **Hodgdon Meadows**

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: **2009-032 Carlon Riparian and Meadow Restoration** Date: **August 3, 2009** PEPC
Project ID Number: **25593**

b. Describe project and area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.2[c])

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify cultural resources?

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Carl Inn Historic Site; Old Big Oak Flat Road Historic District**

Check here if no known cultural resources will be affected. (If this is because area has been disturbed, please explain or attach additional information to show the disturbance was so extensive as to preclude intact cultural deposits.)

4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Carl Inn**

Notes: **Archeological investigations associated with this project will determine effect and protective measures.**

Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): **Carl Inn**

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): **American Indian traditional resource area**

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

No Replace historic features/elements in kind

No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

- Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
 _____ Other (please specify)

6. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:
 (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- **Per YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.B and C., national register eligibility of the archeological site will be determined. If the site is significant, the restoration project will be designed to avoid adverse effects, either through sensitive project design & implementation, or archeological data recovery.**
- **Coordinate consultation with Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians during archeological investigations to determine whether American Indian deposits occur in the area of investigations.**

7. Supporting Study Data:
 (Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

8. Attachments:
 Maps Archeological survey, if applicable Drawings Specifications Photographs
 Scope of Work Site plan List of Materials Samples Other:

Prepared by: **Jeannette Simons** Date: **August 3, 2009** Title: **Historic Preservation Officer**
 Telephone: **209-379-1372**

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

Archeologist
 Name: **Laura Kirn**
 Date: 06/24/2009
 Comments: Per YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.B and C., national register eligibility of the archeological site will be determined. If the site is significant, the restoration project will be designed to avoid adverse effects, either through sensitive project design & implementation, or archeological data recovery.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance
 Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect
 Streamlined Review
 Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

[] Historical Architect

Name: **Sueann Brown**

Date: **06/25/2009**

Comments:

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

[] Anthropologist

Name: **Jeannette Simons**

Date: **08/03/2009**

Comments: **A site visit for this project, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk voiced their opinion that there may be American Indian deposits beneath the foot print of the Carl Inn.**

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Coordinate consultation with Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians during archeological investigations to determine whether American Indian deposits occur in the area of investigations

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

[] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: **David Humphrey**

Date: **06/24/2009**

Comments: **None.**

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: **None.**

Doc Method: **Park Specific Programmatic Agreement**

No Reviews From: **Curator, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor**

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

_____ No Historic Properties Affected **X** No Adverse Effect _____ Adverse Effect

2. Compliance requirements:

A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS: _____

D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

Specify: _____

E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

G. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

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

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Elexis J. Mayer//

Date: 9/01/09

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

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

Signature of Acting Superintendent //David V. Uberuaga//

Date: 9/04/09

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