United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7615(YOSE-PM)

Memorandum

To: Dave Humphrey, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-067 Wawona Sierra Nevada Research Institute Training Room Upgrades (32172)

The Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project 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:

- Archeological monitoring will be required during construction. For more information, contact Laura Kirn, 379-1314.
- Continue and complete American Indian consultation and site visits, and implement measures recommended by the tribes, including participation during ground disturbing activities, to avoid or minimize impact to American Indian traditional cultural resources.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 32172.

\\ *Don L. Neubacher* \\
Don L. Neubacher

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 Form

Project: 2010-037 Wawona Sierra Nevada Research Institute Training Room Upgrades

PEPC Project Number: 32172

Project Description: This project is proposed to rehabilitate the historic Wawona Ranger Station Garage to improve its use as a research and training facility for the Sierra Nevada Research Institute. The project will be funded by a National Science Foundation Academic Research Infrastructure: Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARI-R2) grant and will be managed by the University's Facilities Manager for the Sierra Nevada Research Institute.

Exterior work on the building is proposed to include in-kind replacement of the existing wood shake roof with new fire retardant cedar shakes and replacement of the non-historic door with doors reconstructed to match the original doors. Interior work will include the removal of non-historic materials and installation of new wall, floor and ceiling finishes, insulation, a fire suppression sprinkler system and alarm, upgraded electrical and data wiring and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Condition systems. The building's two research/conference rooms will each be furnished with six fixed workstations. Fixed work surfaces will be installed at the single support post in each room. Additionally, both rooms will be wired to accommodate a large format LCD display. All work will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Consultation with the park History, Architecture, and Landscape branch has been ongoing and will continue throughout the duration of the project to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Proposed utility upgrades include replacement of an existing propane tank with a 250 gallon tank and installation of a solar array immediately behind the garage sited so as to minimize its visibility from the road. The array is proposed to include a 20 feet x 5 feet row of solar collection panels and a second row with two 4 feet x 8 feet panels. Trenching will be required to run a new gas line from the existing propane tank (which supplies the office building) to the boiler which will be inside the garage. The trench is proposed to be approximately 6 inches wide, 36 inches deep, and 20 feet long, and is proposed to be installed along the side of the building in an area that has been previously disturbed by prior construction.

Consultation regarding archeological requirements will be ongoing throughout the project to ensure final project design avoids impacts to archeological resources to the extent feasible, and to provide for all archeological resource treatment necessary for compliance with the NHPA and the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). These investigations would meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology, would be conducted in accordance with the park Archeological Research Design, and would be designed to avoid adverse effects to significant archeological deposits by collecting data relevant to the important research questions identified for the park. American Indian consultation has begun, site visits are scheduled and consultation will continue prior to the beginning of the project.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA

Mitigations:

- Archeological monitoring will be required during construction, contact Laura Kirn, 379-1314.
- Continue and complete American Indian consultation and site visits, and implement measures recommended by the tribes, including participation during ground disturbing activities, to avoid or minimze impact to American Indian traditional cultural resources.

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

C.4 Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.

C. 5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

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 Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent_____\\ *Don L. Neubacher* _____

Date_____10/13/10_____

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

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: **09/28/2010**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: **09/15/2010**

Updated May 2007 - per 2004 Departmental Manual revisions and proposed Director's Order 12 changes

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-067 Wawona Sierra Nevada Research Institute Training Room Upgrades
PEPC Project Number: 32172
Project Type: Facility Rehabilitation (FR)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Leader: Dave Humphrey

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.		Negligible			Trenching for the gas line includes 20 feet long by 6 inches wide by 36 inches deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			There will be temporary air emissions during the building rehabilitation.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			Construction noises are associated with this project.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values,	No				

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**
ownership, type of use					
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		Negligible			Wawona Ranger Station Garage.
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Wawona Historic District.
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential,	No				

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
sustainability					
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

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?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
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 Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No		

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? No

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

Interdisciplinary Team	**Field of Expertise**
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management

Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Dave Humphrey	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.

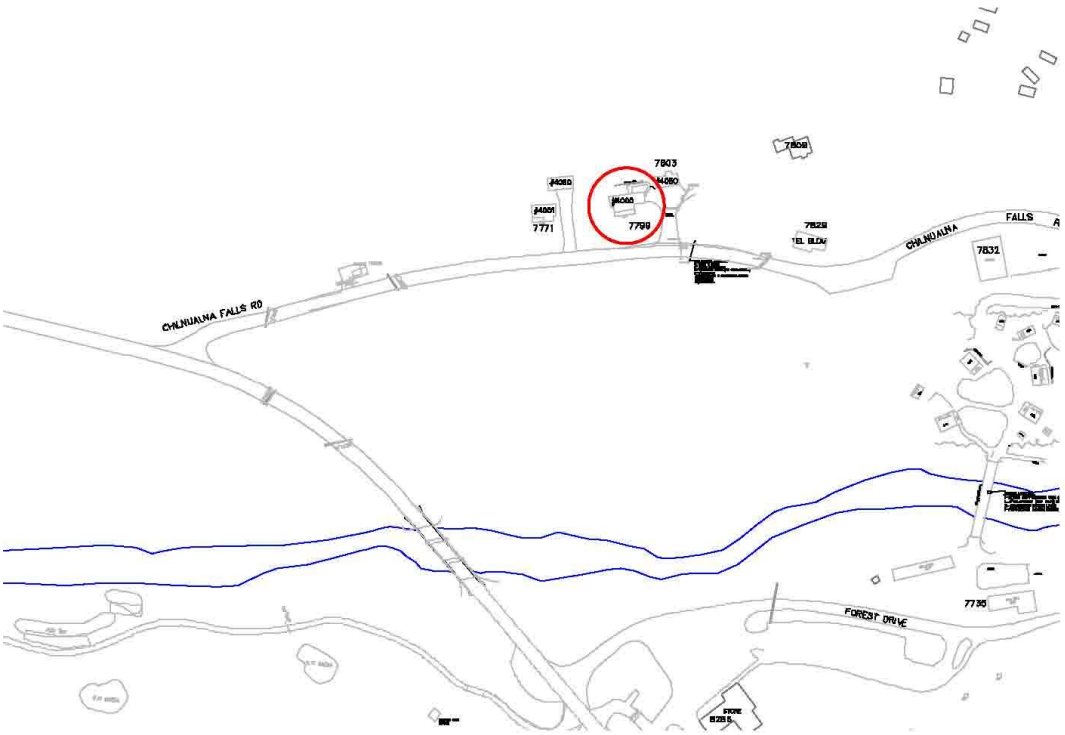
Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
____// *Renea Kennec* //_____ Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	____10-4-10_____
____// *Elexis Mayer* //_____ Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	____10-6-10_____
____// *Randall J Fong* // - *Acting*____ Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	____10-7-10_____

Approved:

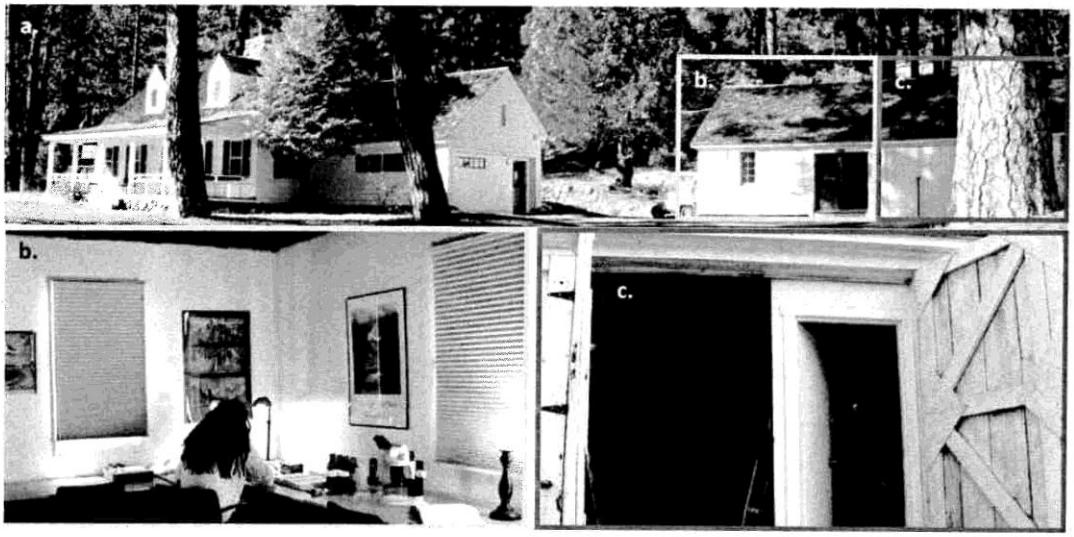
Superintendent	Date
___//*Don L. Neubacher* //_____ Don L. Neubacher	____10-13-10_____

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

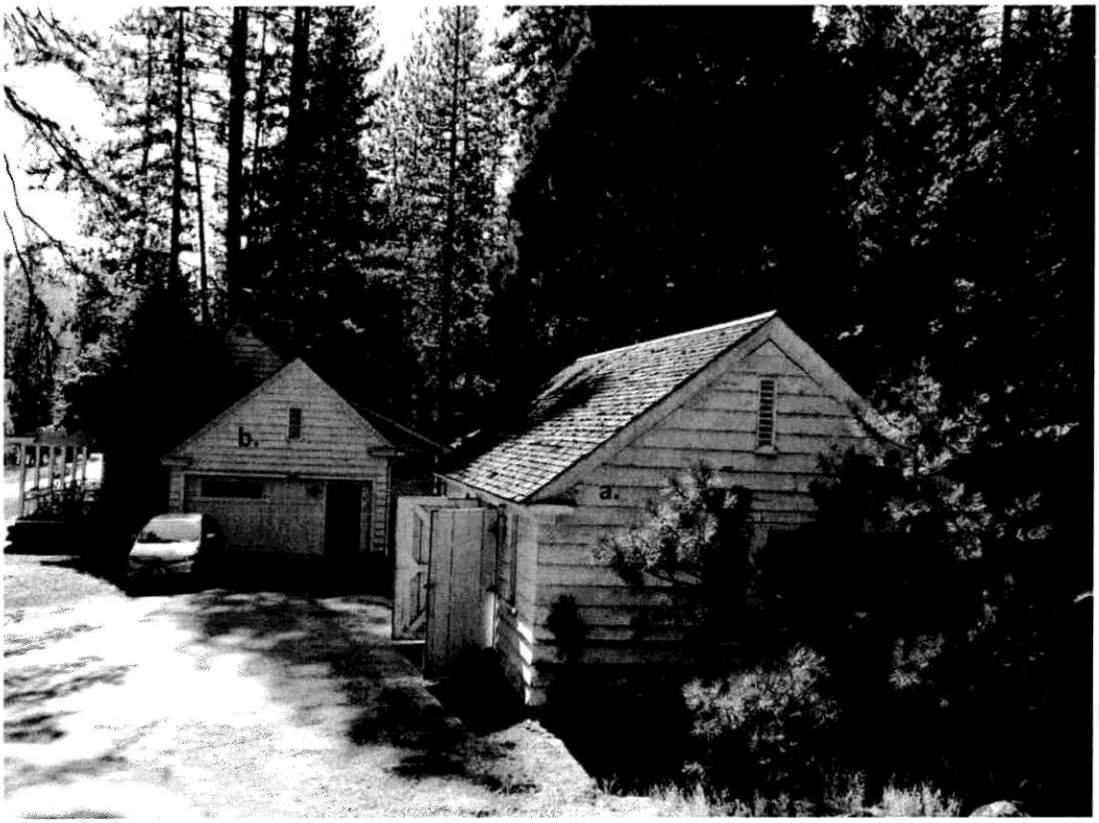


Map 1 – Wawona, Building 4000, 7799 Chilnualna Road

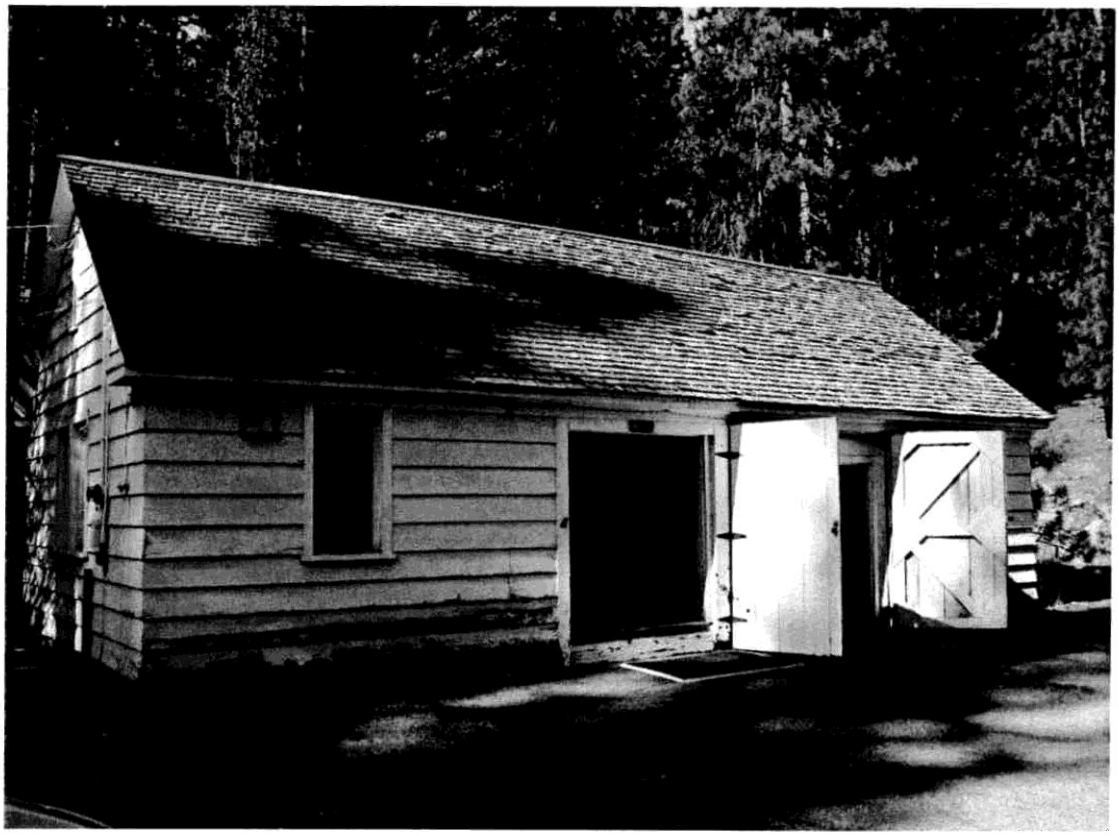
Sierra Nevada Research Institute



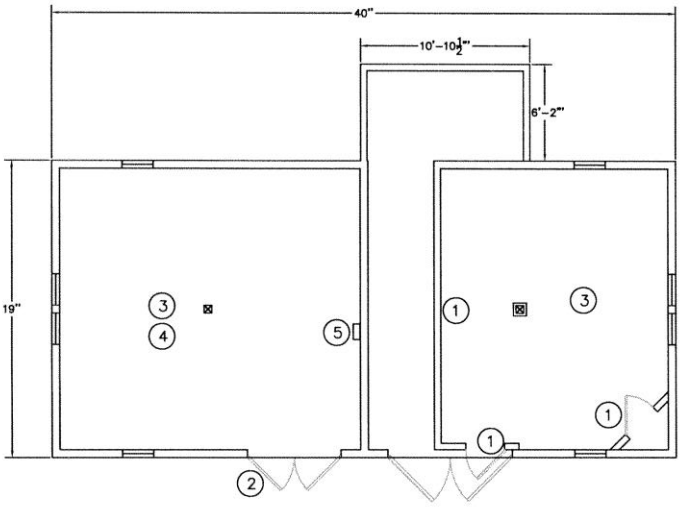
SNRI WFS main building (a) and the detached research space in a historic stable that we are proposing to renovate (b, c). The west half of the stable (b) was renovated in 2008 to create additional research space, but the network connectivity is limited, and structure is un-insulated. The east half of the stable (c) has a 'false' room built in the 1980s by the park, and which carves up the space so that it is not appropriate for our current research needs. The proposed renovations would upgrade the entire stable into two insulated and energy efficient research areas with work stations for remote data analysis, data visualization, and virtual conferencing.



The SNRI WFS historic stable (a) and future informatics and data visualization center. Note its proximity to the main building (b). While the stable is only 800 ft^2, the main space is small, and the proposed improvements would essentially triple the useable high quality research space.



SNRI WFS historic stable. Note the false elevated floor in the west half that was installed in the 1980's when the west stable doors were replaced with the green doors.



Demolition Plan Notes

1. Demolish interior partition and door
2. Demolish exterior residential-grade doors
3. Remove drywall or plywood at all walls and at interior post and ceiling east room. Retain existing original plank siding where it survives.
4. Demolish non-original raised floor
5. Demolish non-original propane wall heater

UC Merced

University of California
Merced, California

Project Name
Wawona

Project Number
PROJECT_NUMBER

Architect

Consultants

Seal and Signature

Drawing Stage

No. Description Issue Date

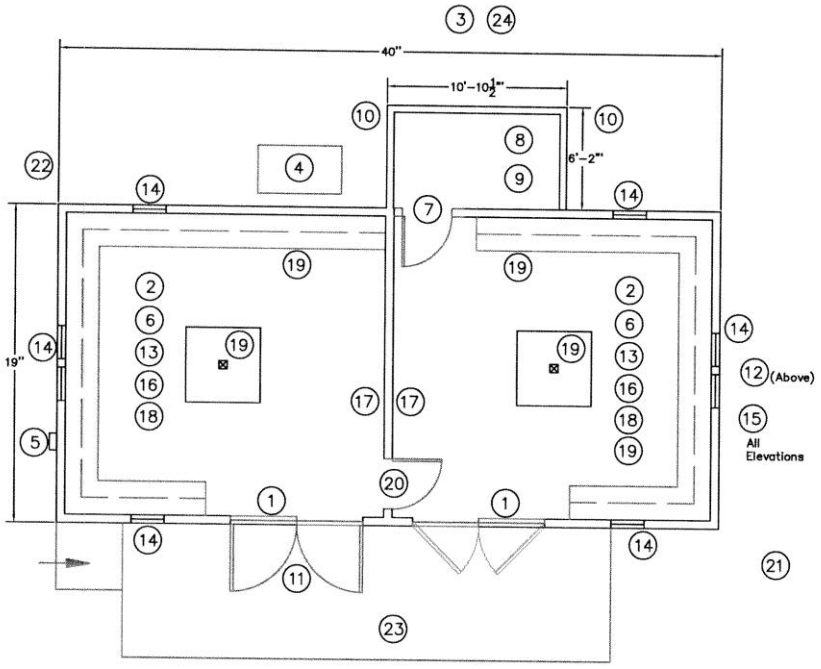
Drawn By: Min Jang
Revision Date: 8/20/2009
Plot Date: 8/20/2009
Scale: No Scale
Key Plan

Drawing Title
Demolition Plan

Drawing Number:
1

8x11

File Name: SNI-20090820



Proposed Plan Notes

1. New dual-glazed sliding glass doors
2. New radiant heat system in new topping slab
3. New solar hot water panels for radiant heating system on south-facing slope at rear of building
4. New propane-fueled boiler for radiant heating system backup on new concrete slab
5. Upgrade electrical service to 200 amps
6. New insulation, new gypsum wallboard, taped, sanded, painted, with acoustical surface treatment; or wood siding similar to original
7. New partition and door for lean-to closet
8. New electrical and telecommunications wiring for active electronics
9. Install University-provided telecommunications rack
10. Excavate accumulated soil at base of lean-to, repair any deteriorated building elements
11. New barn doors to match original pair to east
12. Replace wood shingle roof with new wood shingles
13. Install false ceiling and roof insulation; underside of roof to remain naturally ventilated to preserve shingles and prevent condensation
14. ~~Replace single-pane glass with dual-pane glass (if permitted by National Park Service),~~ perform ~~minor~~ maintenance and repair on original windows; new blackout shades
15. Prep and paint exterior siding, trim and gutters and perform any minor maintenance and repairs required to preserve materials, building integrity, and weather-tightness
16. New wiremold and electrical and telecommunications wiring all four walls
17. New 60" plasma screen monitors for presentations and teleconferencing
18. New high-efficiency lighting at ceiling
19. New wall-mounted work surface with file drawer pedestals at each workstation (6 per room, 12 total) and shelving above; work surface only at center posts.
20. New connecting door
21. New accessible parking space (grade, pave, stripe, provide sign)
22. New emergency generator for backup electrical power
23. New ramp and landing to meet new floor level
24. 20kW photovoltaic array/tie-in to grid

UC Merced

University of California
Merced, California

Project Name:
Wawona

Project Number:
PROJECT_NUMBER

Architect:

Consultants:

Seal and Signature

Drawing Stage:

No. Description Issue Date

Drawn By: Min Jiang
Revision Date: 8/20/2009
Plot Date: 8/20/2009
Scale: No Scale
Key Plan:

N

Drawing Title:
Proposed Plan

Drawing Number:
2

8x11

File Name: SNI-20090820

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 10/04/2010

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: 2010-067 Wawona Sierra Nevada Research Institute Training Room Upgrades
b. Date: October 4, 2010
c. PEPC Project ID Number: 32172

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

___ No
_X_ Yes, Source or reference: Wawona Archeological District.

_X_ 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): Wawona Archeological District
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)
Yes Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
Yes Replace historic features/elements in kind
Yes 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
_No_ Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

_No_ Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
_No_ 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:
No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

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: Renea Kennec Date: October 4, 2010 Title: Environmental Protection Specialist Telephone: 209-379-1038

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:

[X] Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 07/28/2010
Comments: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.e.

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

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Architect
Name: Gabrielle Harlan

Date: 09/30/2010
Comments:

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

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Anthropologist
Name: Jeannette Simons
Date: 10/06/2010
Comments: American Indian face to face consultation was initiated on September 30, 2010, and will continue with 3 tribes and site visits.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]
Assessment of Effect: __ No Historic Properties Affected _X_ No Adverse Effect __ Adverse Effect __ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: No adverse effect determination is contingent upon ability of the project description to avoid impact to American Indian traditional cultural resources.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 09/15/2010
Comments:

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

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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

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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: _____

[**X**] 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: __1999 Programmatic Agreement_____

[ ] 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 NHPA coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer_____\\ *Jeanette Simmons* _____

Date: _____10-6-10_____

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 Superintendent _____\\ *Don L. Neubacher* _____

Date: _____10-13-10_____

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