



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: David Engelstad, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2013-023 Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements (47244)

The Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the proposed project/action and completed its environmental assessment documentation, and we have determined the following:

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

The subject proposed project/action, 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.

Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations:

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

- Conditions at the following two locations apply: (1) Dog Lake Trail at Tioga Road – the sign should be a minimum of 10 feet from the fog line so a car can safely pull off the road, (2) Tuolumne Lodge – the final location of the sign next to the parking lot should be in front of or immediately adjacent to vegetation to minimize its profile in the landscape.
- Archeological monitoring at the Lembert Dome location is required as a treatment measure and condition of the No Adverse Effect assessment.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 47244.

//Don 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: 2013-023 Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements

PEPC Project Number: 47244

Project Description:

Yosemite has experienced a 40% increase in average daily peak season visitation between 2007 and 2010. Since Tioga Pass is only open a portion of the year, the visitation season is short and intensely busy considering the limited facilities. Dependent upon the weather, the park strives to open Tioga Road by Memorial Day Weekend and keep it open through November. After October 15, there is no roadside parking allowed. Visitor information and programming are typically available from July through the beginning of September. Adequate wayfinding and orientation information in the shoulder seasons is not readily accessible.

This project will design and install eight porcelain wayfinding signs (68" wide x 50" tall) in peeled log frames (88" tall x 108" wide) and complete minor improvements to trailhead and transit areas (delineation and signage). In the most problematic areas, unendorsed parking will also be delineated as "no parking" or blocked through placement of wood and/or rock materials. The project will also remove and/or replace excessive or redundant signage.

The eight porcelain wayfinding signs will be located as follows: (1) to replace the existing sign at the base of the trail leading to the Tuolumne Visitor Center (Photo #1), (2) attached to tent canvas at the Tuolumne Store (Photo #2), (3) east of the Campground Office (Photo #3), (4) near the bathrooms at Lembert Dome (Photo #4), (5) adjacent to Wilderness Office (Photo #5), (6) at the north end of Dog Lake Parking Lot (Photo #6), (7) at the Dog Lake trail crossing on Tioga Road (Photo #7), and (8) at the Tuolumne Lodge Shuttle Stop (Photo #8). Minor trail improvements will be made to an approximate 15 foot section of overgrown trail within the "landscaping island" at the southern end of the Dog Lake Parking Lot.

Project Location:

Tuolumne County, CA

Mitigations:

- Conditions at the following two locations apply: (1) Dog Lake Trail at Tioga Road – the sign should be a minimum of 10 feet from the fog line so a car can safely pull off the road, (2) Tuolumne Lodge – the final location of the sign next to the parking lot should be in front of or immediately adjacent to vegetation to minimize its profile in the landscape.
- Archeological monitoring at the Lembert Dome location is required as a treatment measure and condition of the No Adverse Effect assessment.

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):

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 (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.

Superintendent: //Don Neubacher// **Date:** 4/25/14
Don L. Neubacher

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ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 11/20/2013

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: 2013-023 Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements
PEPC Project Number: 47244
Project Type: Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne County, California **District:** Tuolumne Meadows
Project Leader: David Engelstad

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			This project will install seven signs; 14 holes will be dug, 36 inches deep and 20 inch in diameter.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or	No				

estuarine resources					
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
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				There will be beneficial impacts to the visitor experience as a result of the installation of these wayfinding signs.
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Archeological monitoring at the Lember Dome location is required as a

Environmental Screening Form (ESF) - Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements - PEPC ID: 47244

					treatment measure and condition of the No Adverse Effect assessment.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			Tuolumne Meadows Historic District; locations are acceptable, except conditions at two locations should be followed. 1. Dog Lake Trail at Tioga Rd. - sign should be a minimum of 10' from the fog line so a car can safely pull off the road. 2. Tuolumne Lodge - the final location of the sign next to the parking lot should be in front of or immediately adjacent to vegetation to minimize its profile in the landscape.
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	No				

potential, 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		No		

unique or unknown environmental risks?				
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		
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		No		

Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?				
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D. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? Yes
- 1.A. Did personnel conduct a site visit? No
2. Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? No
3. Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties?
4. Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? Yes
5. 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>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Michael Gauthier	Chief of Staff
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Randy Fong	Chief of Project Management
Teri Austin	Chief of Administration Management
Lou Summerfield	Acting Chief of Facilities Management
Linda C. Mazzu	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Kris Kirby	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Kevin Killian	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
David Engelstad	Project Leader
Madelyn Ruffner	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
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
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>4/2/14</u>
<u>//Madelyn Ruffner//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>4/23/14</u>
<u>//Randy Fong//</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>4/23/14</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Don Neubacher//</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>4/24/14</u>

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PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: April 2, 2014

PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2013-023 Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements
PEPC Project Number: 47244
Project Type: Capital Improvement/New Construction (CI)
Project Location:
County, State: Tuolumne County, California **District:** Tuolumne Meadows
Project Leader: David Engelstad

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			This project will install seven signs; 14 holes will be dug, 36 inches deep and 20 inch in diameter.
Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			Archeological monitoring at the Lember Dome location is required as a treatment measure and condition of the No Adverse Effect assessment.

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?	Yes			1. Dog Lake Trail at Tioga Rd. - sign should be a minimum of 10' from the fog line so a car can safely pull off the road. 2. Tuolumne Lodge - the final location of the sign next to the parking lot should be in front of or immediately adjacent to vegetation to minimize its profile in the landscape.
Has a National Register form been completed?	Yes			Tuolumne Meadows Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register.
Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?	Yes			Tuolumne River
Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	Yes			
Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?			N/A	
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
Within designated Wilderness?		No		

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

2. Project Description:

Project Name: 2013-023 Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements

Prepared by: Renea Kennec

Date Prepared: 09/25/2013

Telephone: 209-379-1038

PEPC Project Number: 47244

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

Tuolumne Meadow Historic District; Tuolumne Meadow Archeological District

3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resources:

Archeological resources affected:

Name and numbers: Tuolumne Meadow Archeological District

NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

Cultural Landscapes Affected:

Name and numbers: Tuolumne Meadows Historic District

Location: Tuolumne Meadows

Ethnographic Resources Affected:

Name and numbers: Resources of Cultural Significance (un-evaluated)

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
☐ Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment
☐ No (inc. terrain)
☐ Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric)
☐ Yes to a historic setting or cultural landscape
☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
☐ Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
☐ Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting,
☐ No landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
☐ Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or
☐ No structures)
☐ Other (please
specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

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

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] Anthropologist

Name: Jennifer Hardin

Date: 02/13/2014

Comments: Potential tribal concerns related to the Lembert Dome location. As long as an archaeologist is on-site to monitor the work at this location, tribal monitoring is not recommended.

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties

Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Archeological monitor for Lembert Dome location.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Archeologist

Name: Sonny Montague

Date: 08/08/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []

Assessment of Effect: ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties

Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Archeological monitoring at the Lembert Dome location is required as a treatment measure and condition of the No Adverse Effect assessment.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] Historical Architect
Name: Paul Stephens
Date: 08/26/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: ___ No Potential to Cause 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 Landscape Architect
Name: Kevin McCardle
Date: 09/05/2013

Check if project does not involve ground disturbance []
Assessment of Effect: ___ No Potential to Cause Effect ___ No Historic Properties
Affected ___ X No Adverse Effect ___ Adverse Effect ___ Streamlined Review
Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Locations are acceptable, except conditions at two locations should be followed. 1. Dog Lake Trail at Tioga Rd. - sign should be a minimum of 10' from the fog line so a car can safely pull off the road. 2. Tuolumne Lodge - the final location of the sign next to the parking lot should be in front of or immediately adjacent to vegetation to minimize its profile in the landscape.
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 Potential to Cause Effects
___ No Historic Properties Affected
X ___ No Adverse Effect
___ Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

[] 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: 1999 Programmatic Agreement

☐ E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document

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

☐ G. Memo to SHPO/THPO

☐ H. Memo to ACHP

3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and 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.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:

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

- **Assessment of Effect - Archeological monitoring at the Lemberg Dome location is required as a treatment measure and condition of the No Adverse Effect assessment.**

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Acting Historic Preservation Officer:

Kimball

Koch

//Kimball Koch//

Date: 4/2/2014

E. 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.

Superintendent: //Don Neubacher//

Date: 4/24/14

Don L. Neubacher

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Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in
Yosemite National Park.*

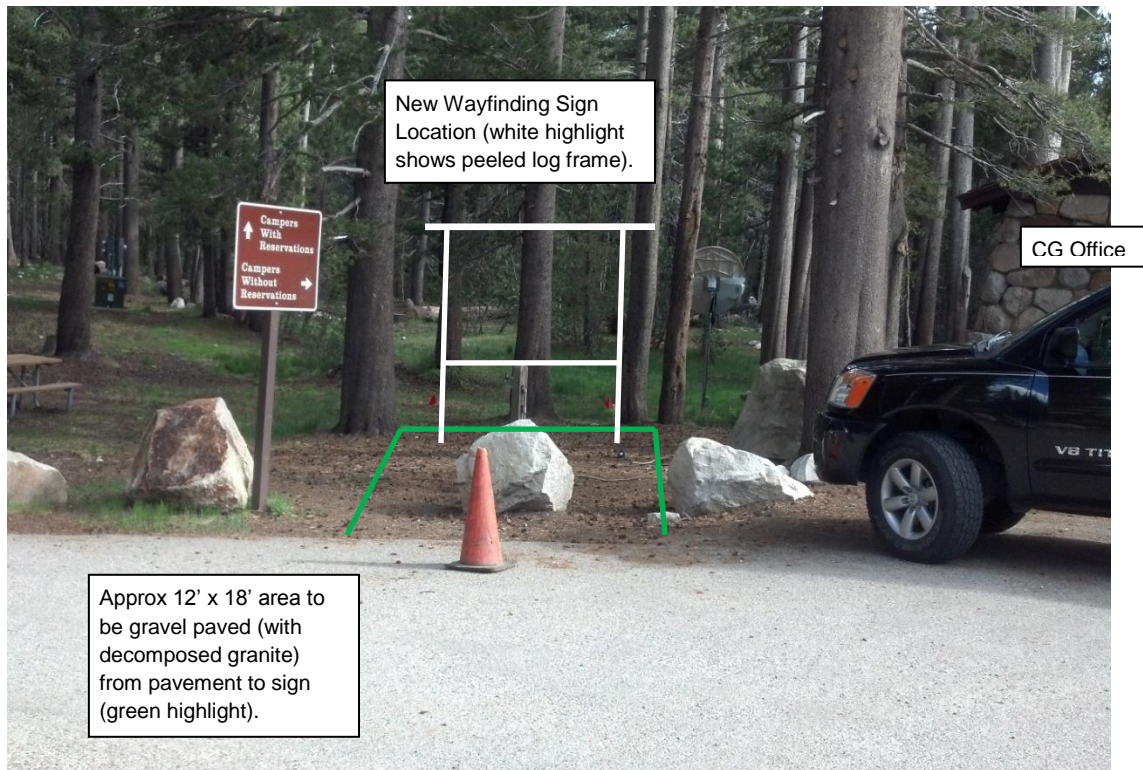
**Photos of Tuolumne Meadows Proposed Wayfinding Sign Locations
(At Parking Lots)**



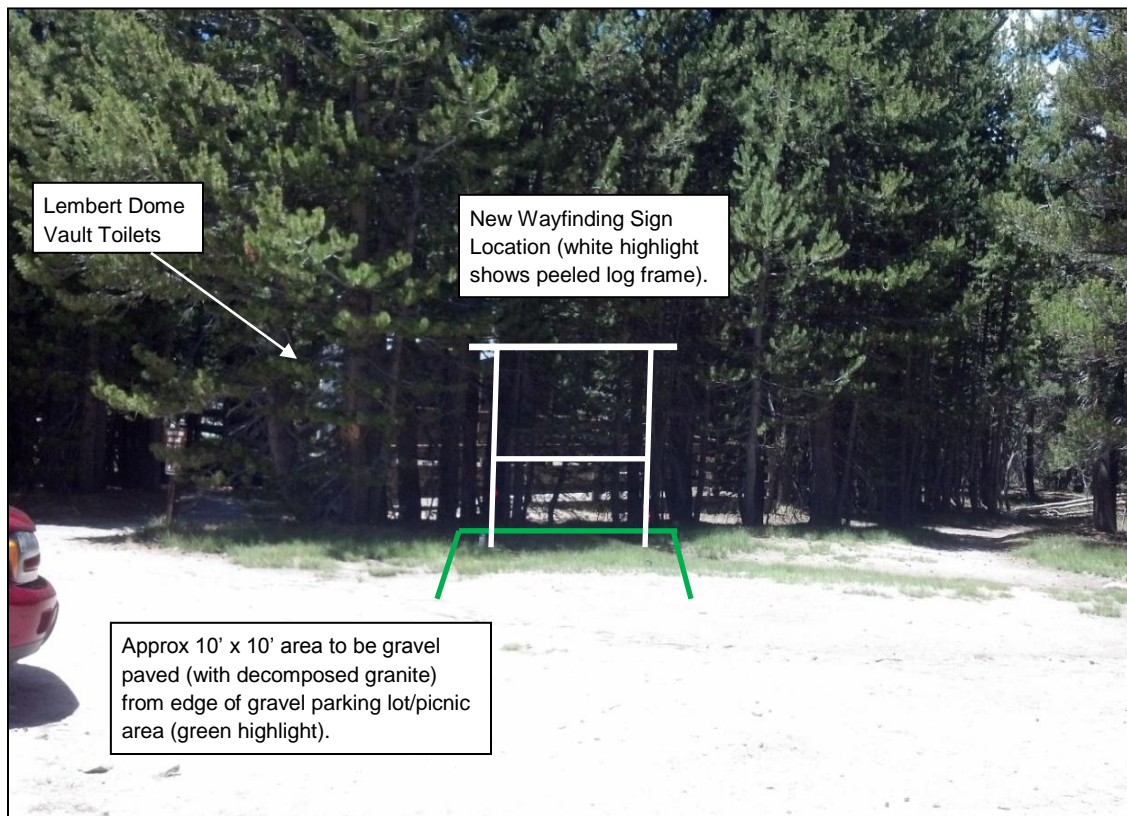
Photo#1: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Tuolumne Visitor Center (replace existing sign)



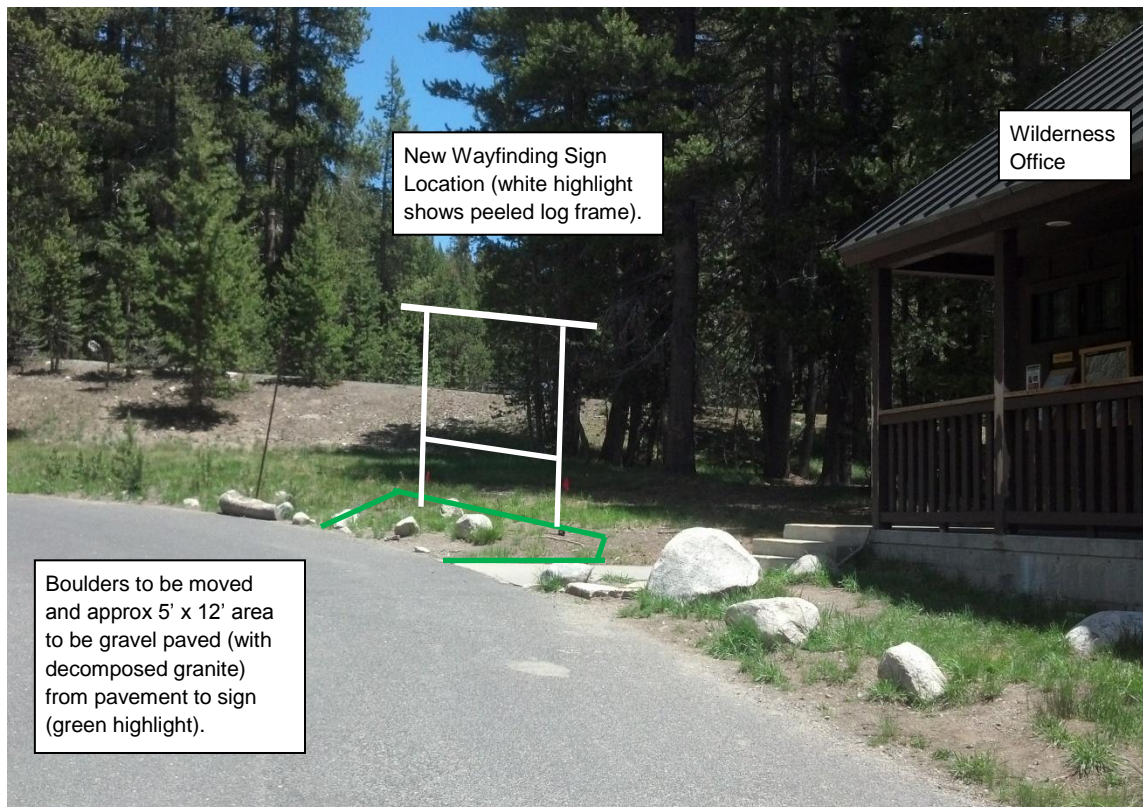
Photo#2: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Tuolumne Store (placement on tent canvas)



Photo#3: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Campground Office (12'x18' footprint)



Photo#4: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Lembert Dome (10'x10' footprint)



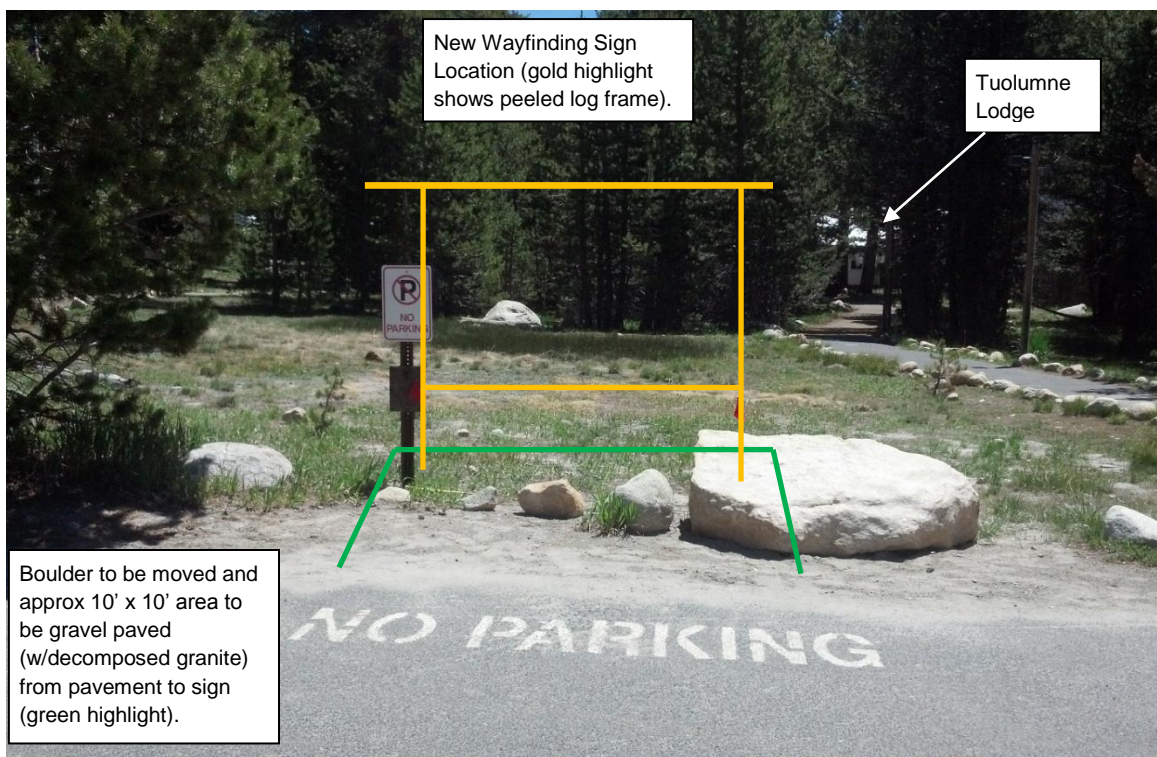
Photo#5: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Wilderness Office (5'x12' footprint)



Photo#6: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Dog Lake (5'x10' footprint)



Photo#7: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location on Tioga Rd Xing to Dog Lake Parking Lot (replace existing rustic steel signs)



Photo#8: Wayfinding Sign Proposed Location at Tuolumne Lodge (10'x10' footprint)

Location Map of Tuolumne Meadows Wayfinding Signs

