



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 UNDERTAKINGS INCLUDING ACTIONS REVIEWED UNDER YOSEMITE'S 1999 PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT



Curry Cabin Rehabilitation

The Programmatic Agreement
Among The National Park Service at Yosemite,
The California State Historic Preservation Officer,
and The Advisory Council On Historic Preservation
Regarding Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance,
Yosemite National Park, California (1999)

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INTRODUCTION

Yosemite National Park prepares an annual report pursuant to the *1999 Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service at Yosemite, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance, Yosemite National Park, California* (1999 PA). The report is meant to describe how the park is carrying out its National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) section 106 responsibilities under this agreement. Per Stipulation XVIII, the report is distributed to the 1999 PA's signatories, invited concurring parties, the National Park Service's (NPS) Federal Preservation Officer and is made available to the public. All parties are provided the opportunity to review and comment on the report.

The requirements of the report include:

- A list of "no effect" and "no adverse effect" actions carried out in accordance with the 1999 PA,
- Identification and/or evaluation of potential historic properties,
- Description of cultural resource monitoring, and
- Summary of the treatment of historic properties.

In addition, this park has included a summary of compliance for planning and design projects completed through the section 106 standard review process (36 CFR Part 800).

YOSEMITE CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Yosemite maintains a staff of cultural resource management (CRM) professionals who meet the Secretary of the Interior's qualification standards. The CRM team, in coordination with the park's section 106 coordinator, reviews projects and determines whether there are potential effects to cultural resources at the earliest stages of project development. The CRM staff includes individuals with expertise in history, curation, archeology, anthropology, conservation, historical architecture, and historical landscape architecture. In addition, designated cultural resource specialists have specific responsibilities for review of projects that could have effects on cultural resources, such as the fire archeologist, who evaluates the effects of prescribed burns. This ensures that common management activities receive appropriate, timely evaluation by cultural resource experts.

The CRM professionals are located within three different divisions within the park. Within the Resources Management and Science Division, the cultural resources program manages two branches: Anthropology, and History, Architecture and Landscapes. The cultural anthropologist position in the park is also the liaison with the seven traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups. In addition to coordinating the tribal section 106 responsibilities, this branch manages Yosemite's cultural resource inventory responsibilities under NHPA section 110. This includes research and documentation of Yosemite's long, complex history of human occupation and use.

Within the Division of Interpretation is the Museum Branch which is responsible for managing and maintaining the park's extensive museum collection, archives and library. Many of the museum artifacts are exhibited and stored in the Museum Building in Yosemite Village. The El Portal Maintenance Complex contains a large portion of the storage facilities for the museum as well. Other small storage facilities are scattered throughout the park.

Within the Division of Project Management is the Branch of Environmental Planning and Compliance. This group coordinates planning, construction, operations, and maintenance project reviews in accordance with NHPA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and documents the assessment of effects on historic properties using the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) program. The PEPC program facilitates the organization, internal review, public commenting, and comment analysis of documents throughout the planning and/or design process for each project. Completed NEPA and NHPA section 106-related documents (with confidential information withheld) are posted online on the park's public webpage at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose>.

A list of all of the park's cultural resource managers from 2014 is provided in Table 1 (below) and includes staff members from the Pacific West Regional Office of the National Park Service who assisted Yosemite personnel as needed.

Table 1: Yosemite Cultural Resources Staff, 2014

Yosemite National Park	
Barbara Bane	Project Archeologist
Barbara Beroza	(Acting) Curator
Paul DePascale	Project Archeologist, Trails Program
Abby Sue Fisher*	(Acting) Cultural Resources Program Manager
Jennifer Hardin, Ph.D.*	Cultural Anthropologist/American Indian Liaison
Gabrielle Harlan, Ph.D.*	Historical Architect
Scott Jackson	Project Archeologist
Rod Kennec	Historic Preservation Specialist
Jun Kinoshita	Project Archeologist, Fire Management Program
Laura Kirn*	Cultural Resources Program Manager
Kimball Koch	(Acting) Section 106 Coordinator
Brenna Lissoway*	Archivist
Kevin McCardle*	Historical Landscape Architect
Sonny Montague	Park Archeologist, Archeologist for Wilderness Program
Paul Stephens*	Historical Architect
Pacific West Regional Office	
Paul Chattey	Historical Architect
Cathy Gilbert*	Historical Landscape Architect
Kirstin Haertel, Ph.D.	Archeologist
Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D.	Historian, National Historic Landmark Program Coordinator
Cari Kreshak*	Section 106 Coordinator
David Louter, Ph.D.	Chief, Division of Cultural Resources
Erica Owens	Historical Landscape Architect
Paul Rogers	(Acting) Archivist
Fred York, Ph.D.*	Regional Anthropologist (since retired)

* Individuals who have recently retired or no longer hold the position (e.g. have left the park)

2014 COMPLETED PROJECT REVIEWS AND PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Projects for which the park completed NHPA compliance in 2014 are listed in Appendix A of this report. The most significant of these projects are described below.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Amendment to Yosemite's 1999 PA

With the 1999 PA scheduled to expire in May 2014, the park, the California Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) agreed to amend the existing agreement for two additional years. The extension is intended to allow time for the signatories to develop a new agreement. Consultation included discussions with Yosemite's traditionally associated tribes and groups. The amendment also made changes to three other stipulations associated with the agreement, primarily to make the park's 1999 PA more consistent with the current regulations (36 CFR Part 800) which were revised in 2004. Consultation on the 1999 PA amendment was initiated on March 24, 2014, and concluded with the execution of the amendment on May 13, 2014.

Rim Fire Report – 1999 PA

Stipulation XI (G) of the 1999 PA states that the park will provide a report to the SHPO, ACHP, Yosemite's traditionally associated tribes and groups, and the National Park Service's Federal Preservation Officer on the impacts of natural disasters and response operations. The Rim Fire report documenting the impacts of the 2013 fire was distributed on July 29, 2014.

Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan – 36 CFR Part 800

The Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (MRP) outlines the management strategy for the 81 miles of the Merced River within Yosemite National Park that are designated as Wild and Scenic under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Merced River Plan provides guidance for the protection and enhancement of river values and manages use within the river corridor for approximately 20 years from the time the record of decision was published on March 31, 2014. The plan is designed to protect the Merced River's free-flowing condition and the unique values that made the river worthy of protection under the Act. Given the scope, long-term nature, and potential adverse effects of the plan, the project's section 106 compliance was conducted under the standard review process including development of a plan-specific programmatic agreement to address adverse effects.

Beginning in March 2013 through early 2014, the park held regular consultation conference calls with the SHPO, ACHP, the tribes and other consulting parties. During these calls, the parties reviewed the various actions under the plan to (1) identify potential adverse effects, (2) find ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate those effects, and (3) develop agreement on the process for continued consultation as the plan is implemented. The park prepared a stand-alone section 106 report entitled, *The National Historic Preservation Act Assessment of Adverse Effects for the Merced River Plan*, which provides a detailed

description of the plan's actions and their effects on historic properties. The section 106 report was included in the final plan which was released in January 2014.

The consulting parties developed a programmatic agreement for the plan which was executed by the park, SHPO, and ACHP on March 28, 2014. The record of decision, completing the compliance process, was signed by the NPS on March 31, 2014. Please refer to Attachment B for a summary of the status of MRP PA actions that have been initiated following the signing of the record of decision in 2014.

Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan – 1999 PA

In 1984, the U.S. Congress designated 83 miles of the Tuolumne River as Wild and Scenic; 54 of those miles fall within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park. The Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (TRP), outlines the necessary actions to protect and enhance the river's outstanding values for the next 20 or more years. Consultation on the plan was conducted under the 1999 PA.

In 2013, the park consulted with the SHPO on the draft plan and notified the SHPO and the ACHP of the adverse effects and proposal to implement standard mitigation measures as specified in section VIII of the 1999 PA. The final plan/environmental impact statement was released for public review on March 14, 2014. The park transmitted the final plan to the SHPO and the ACHP on March 27, 2014. The letter included a revised list of actions and the standard mitigation measures that will be applied. The letter clarified the park's proposed consultation path for remaining actions that have the potential for adverse effects, which is to follow the standard four-step process (36 CFR Part 800). On April 17, 2014, the final plan was transmitted to Yosemite's traditionally associated tribes and groups. The SHPO confirmed that consultation on the TRP was complete on May 9, 2014. The record of decision completing compliance for the TRP was signed on June 24, 2014.

In August 2014, the NPS initiated the Soda Springs Trail and Meadow Restoration project in Tuolumne Meadows. This two-year project will be complete in 2015. The NPS implemented the mitigation measures prescribed in the final environmental impact statement (EIS), including maintaining the current alignment of historic remnants of the Great Sierra Wagon Road, applying specified treatments for culverts, and documenting changes to the road.

Ansel Adams Gallery Complex Rehabilitation – 36 CFR Part 800

After more than 90 years of continuous use, the buildings in the Ansel Adams Gallery complex require repairs to protect and stabilize four historic buildings.

These buildings contribute to both the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite

Village historic districts. They are also located within the Yosemite Valley Archeological District. This project includes upgrades to foundations, the electrical system, plumbing, and fire protection systems



The Ansel Adams Gallery

(sprinklers); and installation of insulation to improve living and working conditions for staff and park visitors. The project will bring all buildings up to current health and safety codes and provide improved accessibility for visitors.

Consultation for the project was initiated under the standard review process (36 CFR Part 800) in 2011. Per a letter dated June 11, 2014, the SHPO concurred with the park's no adverse effect determination for the project. Consultation also occurred with the seven traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups. Construction began in November 2014 on the main gallery building (#900A) and the family residence (#900B). Tribal monitoring is occurring with ground disturbing activities during construction and will continue in 2015.

White Wolf Lodge Rehabilitation – 1999 PA for Phase 1



The White Wolf Lodge main building, October 1933.

The White Wolf Lodge rehabilitation will make repairs to the foundation, siding, roof, and interiors of the main lodge building. The lodge building has received heavy use and is subject to extreme temperatures and snow loads, all of which has led to deterioration of the building. The main lodge building was not adequately designed for the weather conditions at this location, nor does the site have adequate drainage for spring snow melt. These factors have contributed substantially to the need for repairs, especially to the foundation of the building. The park will also make path of travel improvements to the lodge from the parking area as well as construct a new accessible comfort station adjacent to the parking area. The project will be implemented during summer 2015.

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORTS, CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORTS AND OTHER STUDIES

Historic Structures Report

As part of Yosemite's efforts to protect the cultural resources found within the park, staff and contractors conduct studies to provide the necessary information to help guide resource management. During 2014, the park completed the Yosemite Valley Administration Building Historic Structure Report, which documents the background, characteristics, conditions, and potential treatment of cultural resources at the Administration Building in Yosemite National Park.

National Register Listings: Keeper of the National Register

Fourteen historic properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places when the Keeper signed the nominations on July 18, 2014. The nominations were part of a multiple property listing for the High Sierra Camps and backcountry cabins used during snow surveys or as ranger patrol cabins. The 14 properties include:

High Sierra Camps

- Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp
- May Lake High Sierra Camp
- Merced Lake High Sierra Camp
- Sunrise High Sierra Camp
- Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp
- Vogelsang High Sierra Camp

Backcountry Cabins

- Buck Creek Patrol Cabin
- Frog Creek Cabin
- Lake Vernon Snow Survey Shelter
- Satch Spring Snow Survey Shelter
- Merced Lake Ranger Station and Snow Survey Cabin
- Snow Flat Ranger Station and Snow Survey Cabin
- Ostrander Ski Hut
- Snow Creek Ski Hut

Consensus Determinations of Eligibility (SHPO review):

Finding of Ineligibility

- **Wawona Basin CCC Camp** – A determination of eligibility was completed for the Wawona Basin Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Based on research used in preparing the determination of eligibility, the park found that the remaining four buildings of the camp had been significantly modified and that the site did not have sufficient integrity to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO concurred with the park's findings in a letter dated October 6, 2014.

In Process

- **Yosemite Lodge** – A determination of eligibility for the Yosemite Lodge, a Mission 66-era park motel development, will be submitted for SHPO for a consensus determination in 2015. The contributing resources include those buildings and structures that date to Mission 66-era and retain integrity as a historic district.

ARCHEOLOGICAL PROGRAM

Park archeology staff worked on numerous park projects to avoid and minimize impacts to archeological resources. In 2014, park archeology staff conducted inventory, condition assessments, monitoring, and subsurface survey in support of several park projects. The year's highlights are described below.

- Conducted archeological inventory and monitoring related to ecological restoration projects in multiple Yosemite Wilderness areas. The 2014 field work resulted in the inventory of 1,459 acres, documentation of 47 previously unrecorded sites and 80 isolated finds, and re-documentation of 4 sites. In all, 61 fire rings were removed from archeological sites, thereby continuing efforts to promote preservation of archeological deposits.
- Continued participation on an interdisciplinary team to identify issues related to pack stock use in Yosemite Wilderness, bringing the current total of assessed stock camps and grazing areas to 55.
- Carried out subsurface survey work at CA-MRP-56 in support of the Yosemite Valley Emergency Services Complex rehabilitation project. In close coordination with traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups, Yosemite archeologists excavated shovel test units and auger probes in the project area of potential effects (APE).



*Tribal representatives and park archeologists
at the Emergency Services Complex.*

- Conducted condition assessments at a sample of sites within the Wild and Scenic River corridors of the Tuolumne River and Merced River. A total of 42 sites were assessed and a majority of them were found to be in good condition.
- Awarded a contract to Far Western Anthropological Group for archeological investigations at CA-MRP-660/H and -661/H, pursuant to the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias.
- Conducted site protection and monitoring for construction projects, notably Tioga Road Rehabilitation, Tenaya Lake west end trail delineation and restoration, and Yosemite Valley Administration Building Emergency Egress.
- Conducted site protection, pre- and post-burn assessments, and archeological site record updates for a drought-fueled fire season. There was substantial archeological involvement on the El Portal, Meadow, Dark Hole, and Dog Rock fires.
- Carried out intensive public education and work with park staff and volunteer crews to implement archeological site protection and collections documentation as part of FACELIFT, the park's annual trash pickup event.

AMERICAN INDIAN CONSULTATION

Yosemite National Park consults with traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups in accordance with section 106 of the NHPA implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the American Indian Freedom of Religion Act, Executive Orders, NPS Director's Orders, and the 2006 NPS Management Policies. Consultations occur throughout the year on an as-needed basis. The tribes and groups traditionally associated with Yosemite are the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. (also known as the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation), the Bishop Paiute Tribe, the Bridgeport Indian Colony, Mono Lake Kutzadika^a, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, the Picayune Rancheria of the Chuckchansi Indians, and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians.

Yosemite National Park has cooperative agreements with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians to contribute substantially to project planning and implementation as subject matter specialists. Similar agreements are being developed with the other four tribes. The primary purpose of the cooperative agreement is to transfer financial assistance to tribal groups, enabling tribal representatives to participate in the protection of resources with cultural and religious significance. In 2013, the park negotiated a 15-year cooperative agreement with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc., to collaborate about traditional cultural activities and events held in the park.

During 2014, the park completed tribal consultation for 35 projects with potential to affect resources with traditional cultural or religious significance. Consultation with the tribes is facilitated by providing them with a bi-monthly tribal project review spreadsheet, which lists upcoming park projects and gives the tribes an early opportunity to be involved in the planning process. The park also developed five task agreements with the tribes to involve them in resource management and historic preservation monitoring activities.

Annual All Tribes Meeting

The Twelfth Annual All-Tribes Meeting was held in Tuolumne, CA on July 19, 2014. The meeting was attended by park staff and representatives from six of the seven traditionally associated tribes and groups. The meeting opened with briefings from tribal representatives and from the park superintendent. Project managers from the park provided overviews of the 1999 PA extension, the Emergency Services Center Rehabilitation Project, Mariposa Grove Restoration Project, Tuolumne Meadows Restoration Project, Tenaya Lake Environmental Assessment (trail construction) and responded to questions from the tribes and groups. Participants also discussed updates from each traditionally associated tribe and group, tribal participation in interpretation at the Mariposa Grove, cultural resources affected by the Rim Fire, tribal cultural monitoring reports, opportunities and programs for tribal employment with the park, and the Wauhoga Indian Cultural Center.

Site Visits and Tribal Monitoring

The park works with traditionally associated tribes and groups to ensure that projects, especially those involving construction or other ground-disturbing activities, are reviewed and monitored as necessary by qualified tribal monitors. During 2014, site visits with Yosemite's traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups took place related to several projects in the planning process [e.g. Tenaya Lake, Pothole Dome (Tuolumne Meadows), Emergency Services Complex, and Ansel Adams Gallery Complex].

In 2014, cultural monitors were present at the following park undertakings: archeological investigations in support of the Yosemite Valley Emergency Services Complex rehabilitation project, Ansel Adams Gallery Complex rehabilitation project, Tioga Road rehabilitation project, Wawona Wildland Firefighting Facility construction project, Yosemite Valley Administration Building rehabilitation, Mariposa Grove archeological investigations, Mariposa Grove / South Entrance geotechnical investigations, Swinging Bridge Picnic Area improvements, Henness Ridge Environmental Education Campus, and Tenaya Lake rustic trail construction. On-site monitors ensured that publicly valued cultural resources were protected from potential damage during construction activities.

Indian Cultural Center

The 1980 Yosemite General Management Plan authorized development of the Wauhoga Indian Cultural Center in partnership with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County for the purpose of providing a place for park associated American Indians to practice traditional ceremonies and share their culture with the public. The park continued to work with the tribes, recognizing the American Indian Council of Mariposa County as the lead entity on the development the Wauhoga Indian Cultural Center in Yosemite Valley.

ON-GOING CONSULTATION

Development of a New Parkwide PA

The 1999 PA included a sunset date of May 14, 2014. In light of its importance in facilitating timely review of projects and completion of section 106 compliance for many projects in Yosemite, the signatories and consulting parties agreed to develop a new parkwide PA. As described above, in order to

allow time to draft a new agreement, the existing PA was amended for a two-year extension. The park is developing the new parkwide PA [under the authority described in 36 CFR §800.14(b)] which will build from the existing streamlined activities identified in the 2008 nationwide PA.

The park initiated consultation on the new PA via letter in June 2014 with the SHPO, ACHP, and Yosemite's traditionally associated tribes and groups. The park will continue to meet with the consulting parties in 2015.

Meadow Fire, Dark Hole Fire, El Portal – 1999 PA

The park is in the process of preparing reports documenting the effects of these three fires on historic and cultural resources in the park. The reports will meet the requirements of stipulation XI(G) of the 1999 PA. See Appendix C for a summary report on the effects to cultural resources during the 2014 fire season in Yosemite.

Tuolumne Meadows Tent Cabins – Standard Review Process (36 CFR Part 800)

The Tuolumne Meadows tent cabin project proposed to replace 37 tent cabins in three of the developed areas within the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District (Road, Ranger, and Bug camps). Eleven of the cabins proposed for replacement are contributing elements of the historic district (seven historic cabins are in Ranger Camp and the remaining four are located in Road Camp). There are no contributing historic cabins in Bug Camp. All of the cabins, both contributing and non-contributing, have similar designs, which originally featured sidewalls constructed of horizontal wooden siding for the lower three feet and open frames covered with canvas to complete the remaining part of the wall. The cabin floors were made of tongue-and-groove planking and wood rafters defined the gable roofs, which were covered in canvas during the summer months. Screens were used to seal the space between the gable ends and tops of the wood framing.



Tuolumne Meadows hard-sided cabin.

Over time, the canvas forming the upper half of the walls was replaced with plywood, which was sometimes overlapped onto the wooden planks on the lower half of the walls and, on many cabins, plywood replaced the planking altogether. The gable roofs remain constructed of white canvas fabric mounted on wood rafters.

The cabins do not meet current housing standards established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nor do they meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards. The cabins fail to provide occupants with protection from rodent intrusion in an environment where hanta virus is a health concern. In addition; time, use, and weather have left the 37 cabins that will be replaced in poor condition.

The park initiated consultation with the SHPO via letter on March 3, 2014, and requested concurrence on the identification of historic properties and the APE associated with the project. In her response, the SHPO concurred on the APE for the project but submitted a number of questions seeking clarification of the scope of the project and additional information about the status (evaluated or not) of other structures within the Tuolumne Meadows Historic District. As funding becomes available, the park will continue consultation with the SHPO on further design review and in determining project effects.

El Portal Sewer Rehabilitation – Standard Review Process (36 CFR Part 800)

The El Portal Sewer Rehabilitation project will make much needed repairs to the aging sewer system to avoid potential problems with spills and groundwater infiltration. The El Portal sanitary sewer system transports wastewater from Old El Portal, Rancheria Flat, and the trailer park to the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition to making repairs to approximately 28,000 feet of main lines, the project will also repair numerous service lateral connections in Old El Portal and Rancheria Flat.

The project is divided into two phases which were prioritized based on “failure” ratings. Phase 1 will address the most urgent needs on the main sewer line and in Old El Portal. Phase 2 will address the remaining urgent, immediate, intermediate, and long term failures in Rancheria Flat, the trailer park, and the remaining areas of Old El Portal. The work will generally take place within previously disturbed areas.

The park initiated consultation with the SHPO and Yosemite’s traditionally associated tribes and groups in a letter on August 8, 2014. The letter also requested concurrence on the project’s APE and included schematic designs for the new sewer lines. Based on previous discoveries of human remains in the area, the park also provided notification that the park would develop a plan of action pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

In a letter dated August 22, 2014, the tribes agreed to begin consultation including a site visit in spring 2015. The park is completing its assessment of effects and will forward them to the SHPO’s office along with the NAGPRA Plan of Action once complete.

Emergency Services Complex Rehabilitation – Standard Review Process (36 CFR Part 800)

This project calls for making repairs and upgrades to the buildings in the emergency services complex in Yosemite Valley to bring them up to current life safety code requirements. The complex is the base of operations for the Valley Search and Rescue, Fire Management, Aviation Management, Wilderness Patrol, and the Park Desk Office. The complex is comprised of a main building, garage, and storage structure. The rehabilitation will address fire egress, problems with the electrical system, accessibility issues, and the structural integrity of the buildings.

On January 28, 2014, the park sent correspondence initiating consultation with the SHPO’s office. The letter provided notification of the project and requested concurrence on Steps 1 and 2 of the consultation process. In a response letter on March 4, 2014, the SHPO concurred with the APE and identification of historic properties; however, the letter also requested that the park provide additional information on the scope of the project specific to the extent of the excavation. The letter also raised

questions regarding the potential need to update documentation for the Yosemite Valley Historic and Archeological Districts of which the Emergency Services Complex is a part. On same the date, March 4, 2014, the park sent the SHPO the draft archeological work plan, the draft NAGPRA plan, and 40 percent construction documents for review.

On April 25, 2014, the SHPO responded to the park's transmittal with a request to see reports prepared under the NAGPRA plan and to be included in any consultation resulting from discoveries subject to the plan. The SHPO also made suggestions related to the archeological work plan and provided several comments on the construction drawings related to the fire suppression system, windows, roof replacement, and wood flooring in the main building.

On July 23, 2014, the park sent a letter to the SHPO requesting concurrence on the assessment of adverse effects and notification that the park was developing a MOA to resolve those adverse effects. The letter also provided a summary of the results of the archeological survey results. This work was necessary because the project falls within the Yosemite Valley Archeological District and within the boundary of site CA-MRP-56/H.

The park wrote to the SHPO on November 3, 2014, to clarify the APE for the project and to request review and comment on the final draft Archeological Subsurface Survey at the Yosemite Valley Emergency Services Complex, North Central Portion of CCA-MRP-0056/H.

The park developed a MOA to resolve the adverse effects to archeological and historic properties of religious and cultural significance. This agreement involved extensive consultation with the park's traditionally associated tribes and groups and includes mitigations such as developing a publication written by and from the perspective of traditionally associated American Indians, revitalizing the Indian interpretive Garden at the Yosemite Museum, and tribal cultural monitoring for the project. (The MOA was signed in January 2015).

The Ahwahnee Hotel Comprehensive Rehabilitation – Standard Review Process (36 CFR Part 800)

The park is continuing to implement the long-term rehabilitation of The Ahwahnee Hotel, a National Historic Landmark. After more than 80 years in service, facilities at The Ahwahnee are not fully compliant with current fire protection and building codes, recommended seismic safety practices, and accessibility codes and guidelines. Given the significance of The Ahwahnee and its surroundings, on-going consultation with the SHPO and tribes and groups is anticipated throughout plan implementation.

Compliance for this comprehensive plan was completed through a plan-specific programmatic agreement signed on January 24, 2011 (2011 PA). The park continues to consult with the SHPO regarding implementation of 2011 PA stipulations. During 2014, the park developed construction documents for the east wing improvements phase.



An artist's rendering of the new secondary egress to be constructed at the east wing of The Ahwahnee.

This phase includes the following actions:

- Construct secondary egress from the upper floors of the east wing of the hotel by replacing the non-compliant 2nd and 3rd floor fire egress (spiral stairway),
- Provide two accessible guest suites to fully meet accessibility guest room ratio requirements,
- Add a limited use/limited access elevator to provide accessibility to the south mezzanine meeting rooms,
- Reconfigure the bar in The Ahwahnee to correct accessibility deficiencies; restore the historic footprint and improve operational efficiency, health code compliance, and visitor service, and
- Replace failing water and sewer lines servicing the bar.

In 2013, the park provided the SHPO with design development drawings for review on which there were no comments. The final construction documents for this phase of work were completed in late August 2014. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016.

ANTICIPATED CONSULTATION

Ongoing Consultation

- New Parkwide PA – Development of a new PA for parkwide activities will entail consultation with SHPO, ACHP, and the American Indian tribes and groups and will likely require substantial consultation during much of 2015 and early 2016 before the extension to the current 1999 PA expires.
- El Portal Sewer Rehabilitation project – continued consultation includes effect determination and completion of NAGPRA POA.
- Merced River Plan
 - West of Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 parking lots
- Tuolumne River Plan
 - Tuolumne Meadows Cabin Replacement
- Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Structures Project – The park will likely re-initiate consultation in the future regarding a possible amendment to an existing MOA developed for the original project to include additional historic duplex bungalows located within the revised boundary of the rockfall zone.
- Mariposa Grove restoration – amendment to MOA.
- Emergency Services Complex – execute and meet requirements of MOA.

New Projects in 2015

The park anticipates initiating consultation regarding the following projects in 2015:

- Wilderness Stewardship Plan EIS
- Merced River Plan Implementation
 - Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area at Camp 6/Realignment of Northside Drive
 - Add Campsites, Improve Walkways, and Construct a Restroom Facility at Camp 4
 - Protect the Merced River Corridor Experience through Ecological Restoration

- Tuolumne River Plan Implementation
 - Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station Office Addition
 - Tuolumne Meadows Gas Station Removal
 - Tuolumne Meadows Cabin Replacement of Two Non-Contributing Cabins

STATUS OF OTHER ACTIVE AGREEMENTS

The following describes how the park is meeting the requirements of its active agreements with the SHPO and other consulting parties:

Programmatic Agreement Between the National Park Service, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (executed in 2014)

The MRP PA supplements 36 CFR Part 800 and the 2008 Nationwide PA. It was developed in recognition of the scope of the MRP, which is long-term in nature and identifies numerous potential projects which have not been developed in sufficient detail for a determination of effects. The PA was executed on March 28, 2014, and is primarily procedural. It categorizes projects identified in the plan based their level of effects on historic properties. Category 1 actions are those with No Historic Properties Affected or No Adverse Effects. Category 2 actions have Adverse Effects. Category 3 projects are those for which identification, evaluation and assessment of effects have yet to be completed and consultation will be conducted pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 and the 2008 Nationwide PA.

Appendix B of this report is intended to meet the reporting requirements of Stipulation IV.D. *Annual Report and Meeting* of the 2014 MRP PA, providing an update on identification, evaluations, assessment of effects determinations, and implementation of MRP actions.

Memorandum of Agreement Between the National Park Service and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Yosemite National Park, Mariposa County, California (executed in 2013)

The Mariposa Grove MOA was executed on December 6, 2013. The Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians signed the agreement as a concurring party in February 2014. The stipulations require the park to update the nomination for listing the Mariposa Grove Archeological District on the National Register of Historic Places and prepare a National Register Nomination for the Mariposa Grove Historic District that includes changes resulting from the project. In addition, there are several stipulations pertaining to treatment and monitoring of archeological resources. This includes provisions for data recovery, excavation and requirements for tribal monitoring during construction or pre-construction archeological surveys in areas with known or suspected archeological resources. Prior to construction, deconstruction, or removal activities in the Mariposa Grove or South Entrance Historic Districts; stipulations in the agreement obligate the park to prepare photographic documentation by professional photographers or specially trained subject matter experts. Finally, this document functions as the annual report on the progress of the activities outlined in the plan.

For archeological and tribal resources, the MOA stipulates that the NPS will undertake archeological data recovery at the two sites in the APE, depending upon final project design. Actions within or adjacent to these sites that involve minor ground disturbance will be conducted with an archeological and tribal monitor present. Actions involving moderate to severe ground disturbance within or adjacent to the two sites will be preceded by intensive surface survey and/or controlled subsurface testing. Archeological test excavations at the prehistoric component of site CA-MRP-661/H took place in November 2014, and indicated that additional data recovery is necessary. The NPS discussed data recovery options at a consultation meeting with the American Indian tribes and groups.

The NPS intends to amend the project MOA with regard to the following: inclusion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a signatory, modification of data recovery methods at one archeological site in response to a request from the tribes, and the lowering of a section of the Mariposa Grove Road near the South Entrance that was not included in previous descriptions of the undertaking.

The park began in-house trail construction at the Grizzly Giant repair of historic masonry at Wawona Point in 2014. The park will begin site-specific tree removal and initiate contracted construction of the project in summer 2015. Work is expected to be completed in early 2017.

Programmatic Agreement Between the National Park Service, Yosemite National Park and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding The Ahwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program, Mariposa County, California (executed in 2011).

The plan-specific agreement for the multi-year comprehensive rehabilitation of The Ahwahnee Hotel requires the park to submit design and construction documents as they are developed to the SHPO for review. Per Stipulation III.B., the park sent the 100 percent draft construction documents for the east wing egress phase for review and comment to the SHPO on January 28, 2014. The final construction documents will be sent in 2015. For the upcoming phase of construction, the park will prepare a narrative report and photographic documentation, as described in stipulation IV-C.

The park anticipates completion of the Historic American Building Survey written documentation and submittal to the Library of Congress in 2015 to meet stipulation IV.A of the agreement. Remaining stipulations to be completed include an update of the National Register nomination for The Ahwahnee Hotel; narrative and photographic documentation of before, during, and after construction activities for each rehabilitation phase; as well as the development of interpretive media and materials for the public.

Memorandum of Agreement Between the National Park Service and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone Mitigation, Yosemite National Park, Mariposa County, California (executed in 2011).

The majority of stipulations have been fulfilled as required during earlier implementation phases of the project; all structures were removed from the rockfall zone in 2013. Salvage efforts and site clean-up were completed in October 2013. The park hand-delivered the Historic American Landscapes Survey photographs and documentation to the SHPO on December 5, 2013; copies of both were submitted to the U.S. Library of Congress on June 26, 2013.

In June 2014, stipulations I.D. 1 and I.D. 5 requiring development of an interpretive exhibit and small interpretive signs at the site were completed. The park has developed a draft brochure related to stipulation I.D.5 describing Curry Village. In addition, the MOA stipulates that the nominations for the Yosemite Valley and Camp Curry Historic Districts will be updated within three years of completion of the undertaking (by 2016). The update will include information about the recent history and revised lists of contributing and non-contributing features.

Memorandum of Agreement Among the National Park Service, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Regarding the Demolition, Relocation, and Rehabilitation of all Components of the Merced River Hydroelectric Generating System (executed in 1986).

The remaining obligation under this agreement is submittal of the revised National Register form to the SHPO, the ACHP, and the Keeper of the National Register, as directed in stipulation VII of the 1986 MOA. A revised National Register form was submitted to the SHPO in February 2007, requesting review and was returned with suggested revisions. The integration of the required revisions into the National Register form is awaiting funds to support the effort.

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with stipulation XVIII of the 1999 PA, copies of this report are being sent concurrently to the National Park Service Federal Preservation Officer as well as all invited signatories of the 1999 PA, which include:

- California SHPO
- ACHP
- Seven traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups
- National Trust for Historic Preservation

The report will also be available for public inspection in the Yosemite Research Library, Yosemite Archives, and at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose_NHPAannualreports.

APPENDIX A- **SUMMARY OF 106 COMPLIANCE FOR 2014 PROJECTS**

Project Title	Supt. Approval Date	Assess. Of Effects	Documentation Method	SHPO	ACHP	Tribes	Historical Landscape Architect	Historical Architect	Archeo- logist	Anthro- pologist
Yosemite Lodge Kitchen Ceiling Tiles Replacement	2/28/14	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Programmatic CE: Commercial Use Authorization – Camping Trailer Delivery	3/3/2014	No Potential to Cause Effects	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programmatic CE: Commercial Use Authorization – Motorcycle Tour	3/3/2014	No Potential to Cause Effects	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programmatic CE: Commercial Use Authorization – Art Activity Workshop	3/3/2014	No Potential to Cause Effects	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wawona Fires Station Geotech Investigation	3/19/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement	3/28/2014	Adverse Effect	Standard 4-Step Process	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lower Pines Preventative Search and Rescue Campsite Installation	4/3/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Commercial Use Authorization – 2014 Stock Use	4/21/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Curry Village Stoneman Cottage Steam Heat Piping Repair	4/25/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Project Title	Supt. Approval Date	Assess. Of Effects	Documentation Method	SHPO	ACHP	Tribes	Historical Landscape Architect	Historical Architect	Archeologist	Anthropologist
Tuolumne Meadows Transit and Trail Sign Improvements	4/25/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Issuance of El Portal Market Concessions Contract Prospectus	5/15/2014	No Historic Properties Affected	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	NO	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Issuance of Primary Concession Contract Prospectus	5/15/2014	No Historic Properties Affected	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	NO	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Yosemite Changeable Message Signs Installation	5/28/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southern California Edison Tioga Pass 12 kV Relocation (Rhinedollar Phase II)	6/18/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement	6/24/2014	Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement and future consultation under the Standard 4-Step Process	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
El Portal Administrative Site Davenport Addition	6/24/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Rehabilitate Tuolumne Meadows Ranger Station	6/25/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ansel Adams Gallery Comprehensive Rehabilitation	6/27/2014	No Adverse Effect	Standard 4-Step Process	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
White Wolf Lodge and Duplex Cabins Rehabilitation	7/3/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Project Title	Supt. Approval Date	Assess. Of Effects	Documentation Method	SHPO	ACHP	Tribes	Historical Landscape Architect	Historical Architect	Archeologist	Anthropologist
Wilderness Restoration Programmatic 2014-2019	7/7/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Yosemite AT&T Microwave Radio Upgrade	7/22/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Archeological Investigations for the Emergency Services Complex Rehabilitation	7/23/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Glacier Point Location Assessment for an Alternative Sewer System	7/23/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Glacier Point Air Conditioning Installation	7/23/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
El Portal Administrative Site Esquivel House Construction	8/7/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
El Portal Sewer Rehabilitation Geotech Investigation	9/4/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Yosemite Valley Swinging Bridge Picnic Area Accessibility Improvements and Rehabilitation	9/4/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Ahwahnee Hotel Vehicle Charging Station Installation	10/28/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programmatic CE: Film and Photography Special Use Permit	10/31/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mariposa Grove Distributed Soil Moisture and Snow Depth Sensor Installation	10/31/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Project Title	Supt. Approval Date	Assess. Of Effects	Documentation Method	SHPO	ACHP	Tribes	Historical Landscape Architect	Historical Architect	Archeologist	Anthropologist
Yosemite Lodge Pathway Lighting Installation	12/15/2014	No Adverse Effect	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Programmatic CE: Wedding Special Use Permit	12/15/2014	No Historic Properties Affected	Park Specific Programmatic Agreement	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

APPENDIX B - REPORTING PURSUANT TO THE MERCED RIVER PLAN PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (STIPULATION IV.D)

The following provides an update on identification, evaluations, assessment of effects determinations, and implementation of Merced River Plan actions per stipulation IV.D of the *Programmatic Agreement Between the National Park Service, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* (executed in 2014). This stipulation reads:

“The NPS will report annually regarding the Merced River Plan undertaking to the SHPO, ACHP, traditionally-associated American Indian tribes and groups. The annual report will provide an update on identification, evaluation, assessment of effects determinations, and implementation of actions. If requested by a signatory party, an annual meeting will be scheduled with all consulting parties to discuss the annual report and any other issues of interest regarding the undertaking.”

Completed Consultation under the MRP PA

Wawona Fire Station – MRP PA Category 3

The existing Wawona Fire Station building was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1934 to store tools and equipment. The building is located adjacent to the 100-year floodplain but within the 150-foot riparian buffer of the South Fork of the Merced River. It does not meet National Fire Protection Association standards, or seismic codes and standards for fire stations. Although the building has been modified over the years to accommodate firefighting equipment and other operational needs, the existing facilities do not provide adequate ventilation necessary for the safety and health of firefighting personnel.

The Wawona Fire Station project entails constructing a new building to provide for an adequate facility to protect and house the vehicles, equipment, and personnel necessary for the fire and emergency response capability required by the park. A rented trailer at the site that is currently used for wildland fire administrative offices may be removed in a subsequent phase of this project. The future of the existing CCC-era buildings in the Wawona maintenance yard will be addressed as a Category 3 project in future consultation.

Consultation on the fire station project started on June 17, 2014, with an initiation letter from the park to the SHPO. The letter included a request for concurrence on the APE and transmittal of documentation for historic properties affected by the project. The SHPO responded per letter dated August 7, 2014, agreeing that the project constituted an undertaking and concurring with the APE and the plan to continue identification of efforts for cultural resources and the plan for consultation. In a subsequent letter to the SHPO on August 15, 2014, the park requested concurrence on identification of historic properties affected, the finding of ineligibility for the existing Wawona Fire Station, and the

determination of no adverse effect. The park included select pages from the 100 percent construction drawings along with a full set of drawings. In its reply on October 6, 2014, the SHPO concurred on all three items. Construction began in November 2014 and is expected to conclude in October 2015.

Tribal consultation was conducted for this project through the MRP consultation process. The park conducted a site visit in April 2013 open to representatives of all seven traditionally associated tribes and groups. This site visit examined six options being considered for the fire station location. Tribal concerns resulted in the dismissal of two options in the May 1, 2013, choosing-by-advantages workshop which otherwise rated very high for operational efficiency. The park then developed a seventh option that was chosen and is adjacent to the existing fire trailer. Consultation for the geotechnical borings associated with this project was included in the December 2013 spreadsheet of projects for tribal review. Tribal monitors have been present on site during the borings as well as all ground disturbing construction activities.

Adverse effects to archeological resources have been avoided through careful design and monitoring efforts. No inadvertent discoveries of significance have been made.

On-Going Consultation under the MRP PA

West of Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 Parking Areas - MRP PA Category 3

This project will result in the construction of a 300-car parking area with gravel parking spaces and paved drive lanes to the west of Yosemite Lodge. The area currently accommodates parking for transit and other oversized vehicles, concessioner maintenance facilities, and outdoor storage. Work at the site the first year (2015) will consist of tree removal, minor re-grading and installation of gravel, and establishment of parking sites. Work during the subsequent two years includes paving drive lanes and bus parking spaces, and finalizing the wheel stops.

The park initiated consultation with the SHPO in a letter dated November 26, 2014. The letter included a request for concurrence on the APE and historic properties identified. The park anticipates requesting concurrence on the effect determination for the project in early 2015.

The park also notified the other MRP consulting parties including the ACHP, National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and the Historic Bridge Foundation of the project on November 26, 2014, and invited them to participate in the consultation process. None of these consulting parties replied with a request to participate. The park also initiated consultation with American Indian tribes and groups on December 3, 2014, and conducted site a visit on May 19, 2015. Requests from the tribes resulting from these visits were accommodated in the project design and implementation.

The park removed the construction of comfort stations from the project because the locations and designs of the comfort stations were not developed enough for consultation purposes. The park intends to initiate consultation on the comfort stations in conjunction with several other comfort station projects in Yosemite Valley in 2015.

Construction on this project will begin in 2015 and is expected to conclude at the end of 2017.

Anticipated Consultation under the MRP PA

Continued Consultation

- West of Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 Parking Areas – Effect determination anticipated in early 2015.

New Projects for 2015

- Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking Area at Camp 6 (Category 2) – This project includes construction of a 400-vehicle day-use parking area in the vicinity of the existing Camp 6 parking area and realignment/reconstruction of a 0.2 mile section of Northside Drive to the south of the parking area. The park will initiate consultation with SHPO and the tribes in early 2015. The park will also notify the ACHP, NTHP, and Historic Bridge Foundation of the project, inviting them to participate in consultation.
- Ecological restoration in the following locations (Category 1) – Lower Pines riverbank restoration, North Pine riverbank Restoration, Upper Pines riverbank restoration.
- Valley comfort station installation (multiple locations) – This design effort includes the installation of comfort stations at the Yosemite Lodge day-use parking area, one in the expanded Camp 4 Campground, and two within the Yosemite Village day-use parking area (south parking and north parking proximate to new visitor contact station).

APPENDIX C - SUMMARY REPORT ON THE EFFECTS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES OVER THE 2014 FIRE SEASON, YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

Jun Kinoshita, Project Archeologist, Yosemite Fire Management Program

Over the 2014 fire season, there were 58 wildland fire incidents and one prescribed burn (Table 1). Management for multiple objectives allows a range of management responses including monitoring and partial containment. All human caused and 17 natural starts were suppressed. Most of these were suppressed quickly at less than a tenth of an acre. Nineteen fires ignited by lightning were allowed to grow with no or minimal intervention. Most of those went out on their own and accounted for less than 75 acres. Four incidents, the Dark Hole Fire, the El Portal Fire, the Meadow Fire, and the Dog Rock Fire, stood out for their size, complexity and potential to impact cultural resources or historic properties (Figure 1).

Table 1. 2014 Fire Season Fires by Management Response

Response	Cause	No.	Acres
Prescribed		1	57
Managed	Natural	19	1,108
Suppressed	Human	22	1464
	Natural	17	4,802
Total		59	11,033

All fires in Yosemite National Park are assessed by the park's fire archeologist for potential direct, indirect and operational effects. Sites are generally most vulnerable to operational impacts or those impacts stemming from actions taken to suppress or manage a fire. Direct impacts are those that stem from the fire, heat or smoke. The potential for this type of impact in this fire-adapted ecosystem is thought to be higher today given increased fuel loading as a result of 150 years of fire suppression and climate change. Indirect impacts are those that stem from post-fire conditions such as increased erosion or change of fire regime due to invasive plants. Post-fire threats are assessed and when appropriate, addressed through the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program.

The park's seven traditionally associated tribes and groups received regular fire updates by the Fire Information Office by e-mail and on several occasions, more specific fire information notices by e-mail through the park's tribal liaison. This brief summary report summarizes the actions taken by the park to assess, avoid and mitigate impacts to cultural resources by fire and fire operations, in accordance with the 1999 PA.

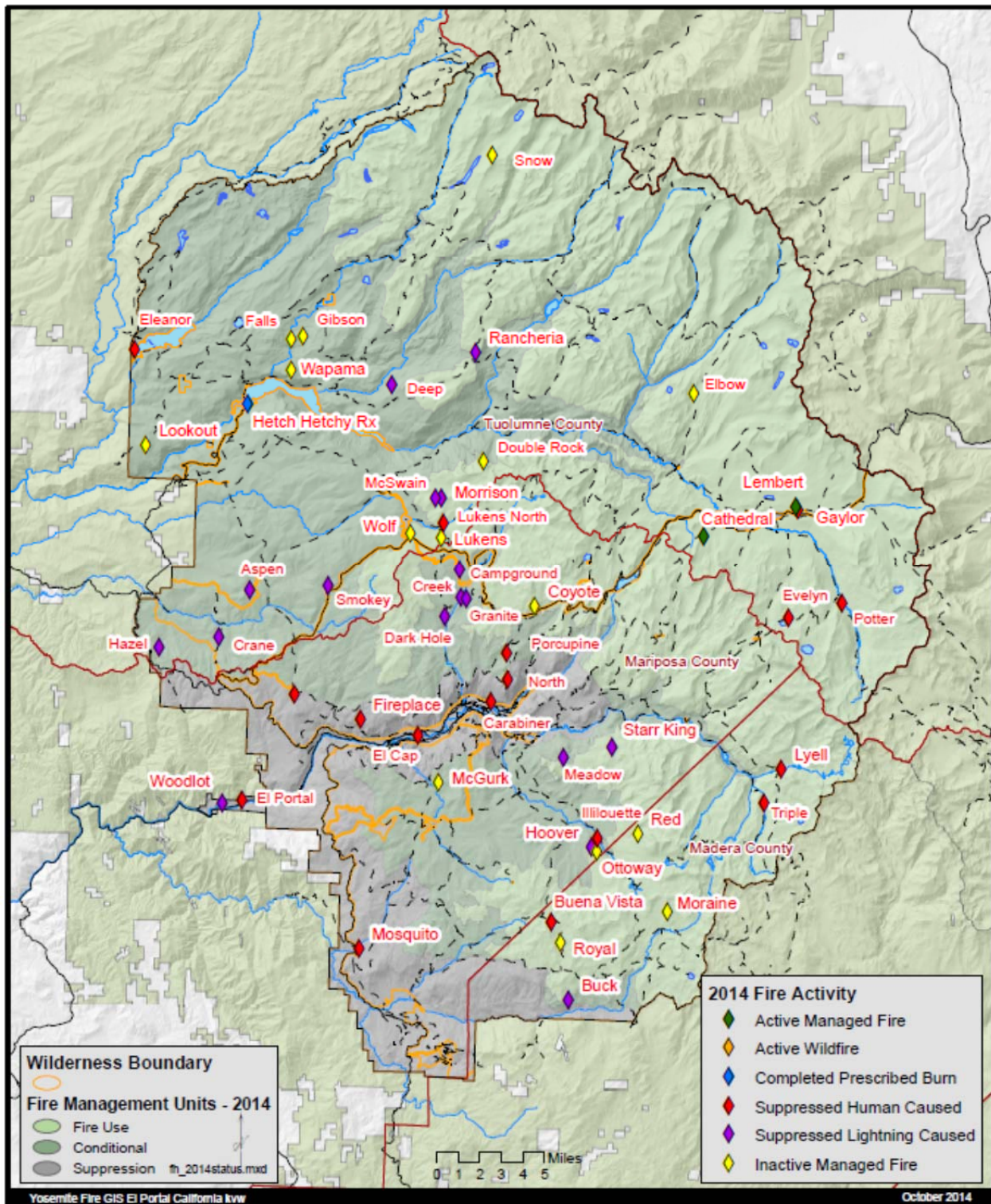


Figure 1. 2014 fire locations

Dark Hole Fire

The Dark Hole Fire (1,077 acres) was a natural lightning strike that was managed in designated wilderness for multiple objectives, including wilderness values. The lightning strike occurred on July 16, 2014, and the fire was declared out on September 27, 2014. A maximum manageable area was identified and existing trails, creeks and other natural barriers were identified for holding lines to minimize impacts to the wilderness character and other resource values. One of the stated objectives of the 2014 Dark Hole Fire was to improve wilderness character by allowing natural fire to spread across the area and introduce fire where needed to hold the fire to prescribed boundaries. During the Dark Hole Fire, the El Portal Fire (described below) quickly became the park's highest priority and limited park management response to all other incidents. Although the Dark Hole Fire continued to grow slowly and benefit resources, it was decided that it would be confined at a smaller size than originally planned. Additional hand line was used to confine the fire (Figure 2).

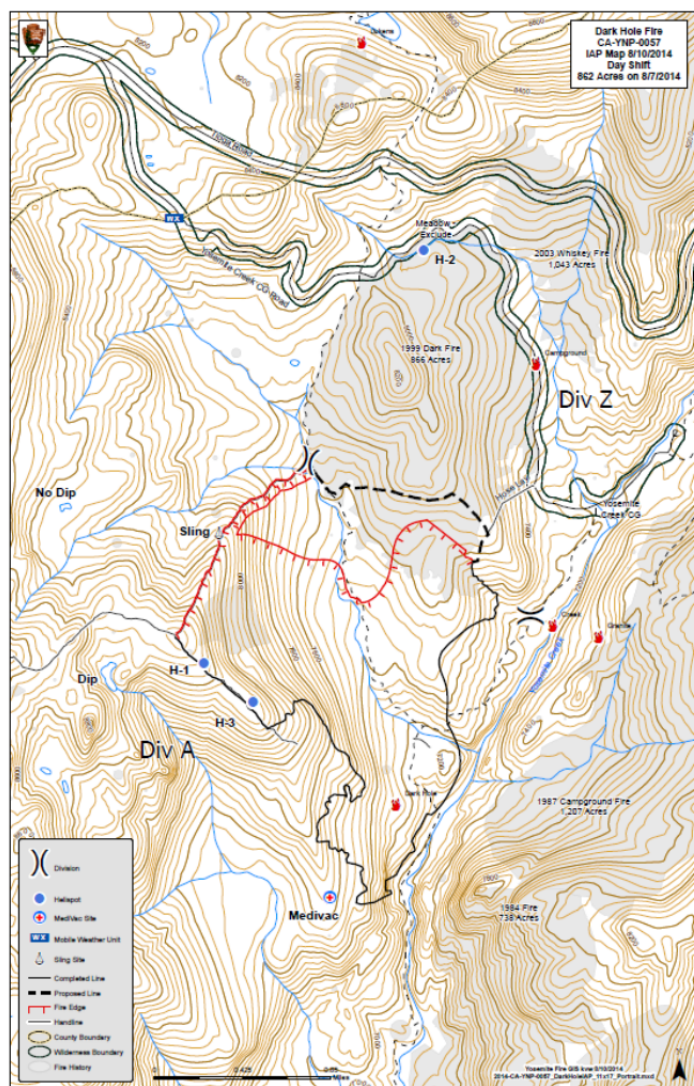


Figure 2. Dark Hole Fire

Archeological survey in the area existed only along trail and road corridors (Figures 3 & 4). These areas were the focus of holding actions except for hand line implemented along the open ridge to the west and then across the north back to the trail.

Eleven known prehistoric archeological sites were identified as at risk during the incident. These sites were in the following areas of survey: around Yosemite Creek Campground, along the trail near the south end of the fire, and one along the trail through the fire (Table 2). Several sites were determined to be outside the proposed fire perimeter and though they were tracked for potential impacts from fire operations, no impacts were observed. These included sites in and around the campground and several on the southern tip of the fire. Sites at the south tip of the fire were protected from direct effects by large expanses of open granite but did have an ongoing presence by fire crews. These sites are in areas where hikers often rest or camp and have been impacted by those activities. Sites in the Yosemite Creek campground also have documented

impacts from visitor use. Firefighters camped in the campground along with a spike camp manager assigned to the camp, and were briefed to ensure that impacts from fire-related activities did not exceed those of visitors.

Much of the 2014 cultural resource work focused on documenting the potentially historic blazed trees found along the interior trail, relocating the archeological site CA-MRP-0125 along the trail, and surveying disturbance along the western edge of the fire for cultural resources. The blazed trees were found to be in a wide range of conditions. Some protection measures were possible but in several cases protection measures were not feasible. Site CA-MRP-0125 was relocated and the site record was updated. The site had burned in the 1999 Dark Fire and was characterized by heavy dead and down fuel loading. Some reduction of fuels on the bedrock mortar was done. Hand lines implemented along the ridges to the west and north of the fire were walked by park Resource Advisors and firefighting crews were briefed about the potential for the discovery of cultural materials. Some potential cultural resources were reported but later determined by an archeologist to not be cultural in origin. Several isolates were documented during work along the interior trail.

No post-fire assessments to evaluate sites on the Dark Hole Fire for indirect effects were completed before the Tioga Road was closed for winter. It is hoped that the 2015 season will allow for post-fire assessments of sites on the Dark Hole Fire. The final report on the Dark Hole Fire will be completed and submitted to all parties consistent with the stipulations in the 1999 PA.

Table 2. Dark Hole Fire sites summary

SITE_NO_	Location	Burned or Unburned	Direct Impacts	Operational Damage	Indirect Impacts	Comments
CA-MRP-0120	S fire trail	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	
CA-MRP-0121	Campground	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	Highly impacted by visitors
CA-MRP-0122	Campground	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	Highly impacted by visitors
CA-MRP-0123/136	Campground	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	Highly impacted by visitors
CA-MRP-0124	S fire trail	Unburned			Unknown	
CA-MRP-0125	Interior trail	Unburned	Piling from fuels reduction	Handline to east just south of site	Unknown	
CA-MRP-0370/H	Campground	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	Highly impacted by visitors
CA-MRP-1528	Campground	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	Highly impacted by visitors
CA-MRP-1767	S fire trail	Unburned			Unknown	
CA-MRP-1905	S fire trail	Unburned			Unknown	
CA-MRP-1922	Campground	Unburned	None	None	Unknown	Highly impacted by visitors

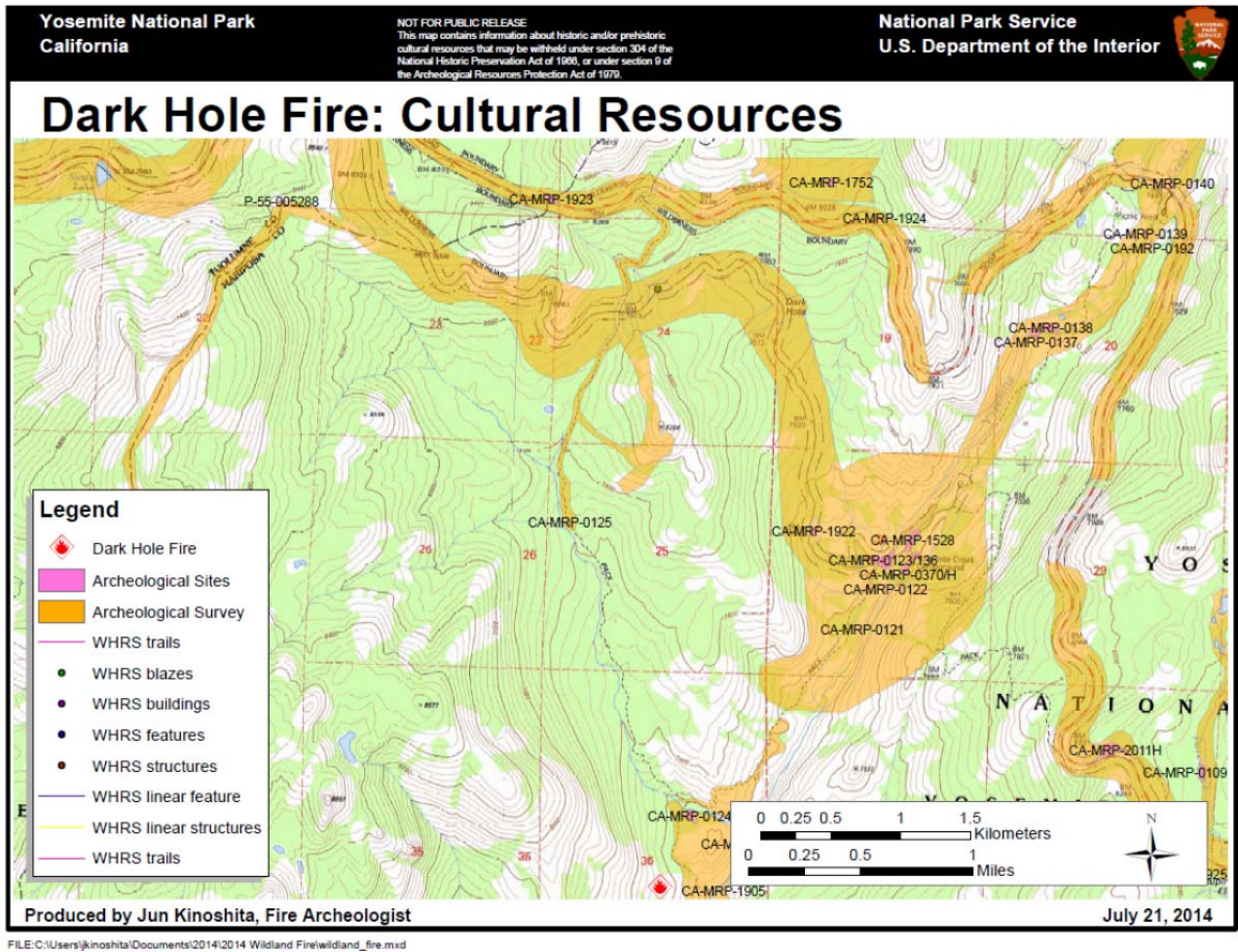


Figure 3. Dark Hole Fire cultural resources near Yosemite Creek Campground and interior trail

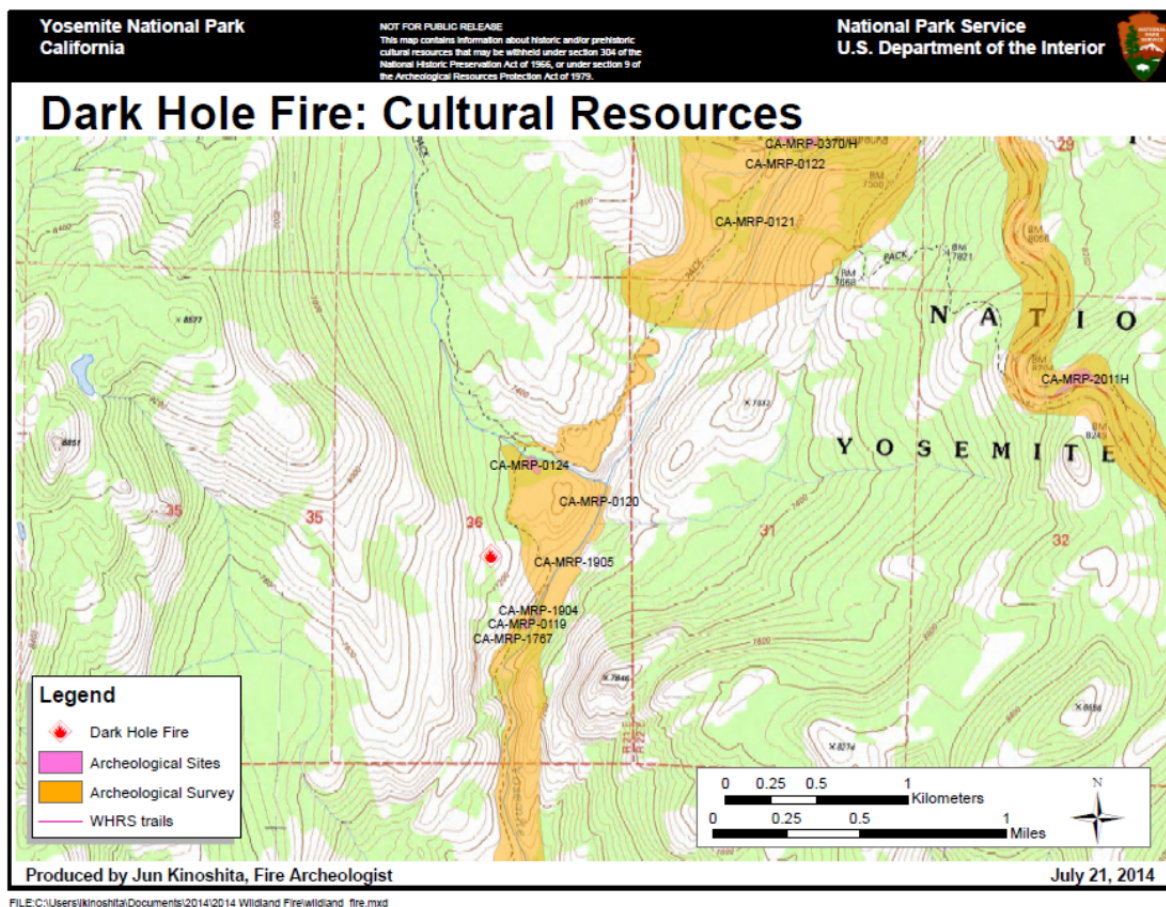


Figure 4. Dark Hole Fire cultural resources at southern tip of fire

Meadow Fire

This lightning-ignited fire (4,776 acres) was identified as a candidate for limited response action. Ignited on July 19, 2014, it smoldered and was discovered on August 15 (Figure 5). On September 7, a wind event caused the fire to spill into Little Yosemite Valley, an area with different fuels and high fuel loading (Figure 6). The resulting rapid growth of the fire burned over several historic properties and archeological sites with high severity and the associated suppression actions had high potential for impact to archeological sites. The fire was declared out on November 3, 2014.

Several blazed trees south of the original fire area were identified Wilderness Historic Resource Study (WHRS) documents, a survey in the mid to late 1980's that informally documented many known historic resources in the park. Two known historic archeological sites associated with those blazes were in the area as well. All of these resources remained unaffected by the fire as it spread to the north.

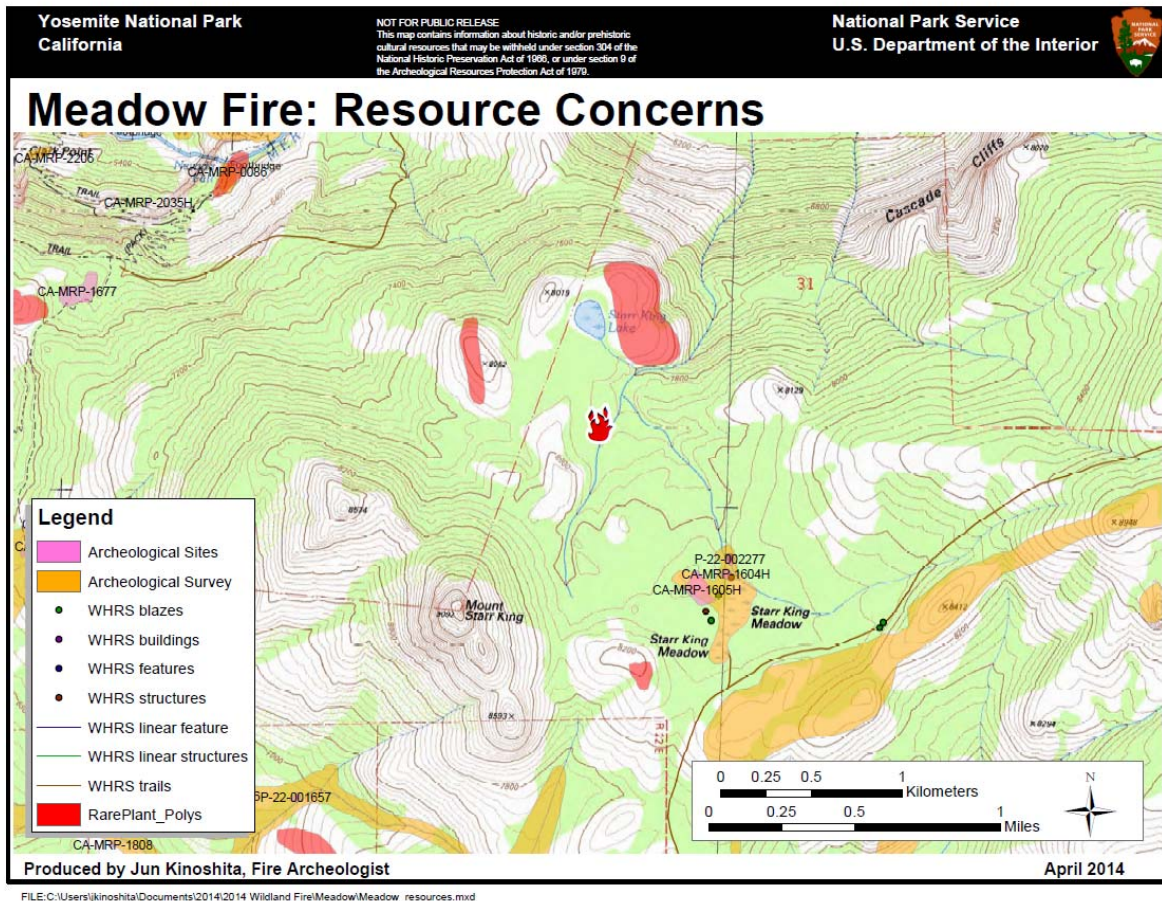


Figure 5. Meadow Fire and resources soon after discovery

Little Yosemite Valley is a heavily travelled corridor for hikers accessing Half Dome, and a wilderness destination with a ranger camp, a large campground, and a large composting toilet structure. The high volume of visitors and wilderness designation have precluded past fuels reduction attempts in the form of prescribed fire or managed fire. The 2002 Liberty Fire illustrated the challenges of working in the area. During that fire, a collapsed, potentially historic cabin located approximately 50-75m off of a trail in Little Yosemite Valley was identified based on WHRS documents. Called The Little Yosemite Cabin, the cabin remains took hours to relocate due to thick stands of small pines and heavy dead and down trees that obscured the site from view. An evaluation of the labor needed to protect the cabin from fire at that time suggested that it would take a 20-person fire crew almost a week to create meaningful defensible space around the cabin remains. The fire was held a distance away in 2002 but the fire behavior exhibited in the 2014 Meadow Fire allowed no time to safely implement any protection measures. Wooden fabric of the cabin was almost completely lost in 2014 though some photo documentation immediately after the fire moved through the area captured nails in alignment where boards lay, and exposed several can and bottle scatters that were previously obscured by the duff and litter (Figure 6). The stone hearth is still visible from the trail and has generated several reports from rangers and other visitors to the area (Figure 8). A site record is being prepared for this archeological site.

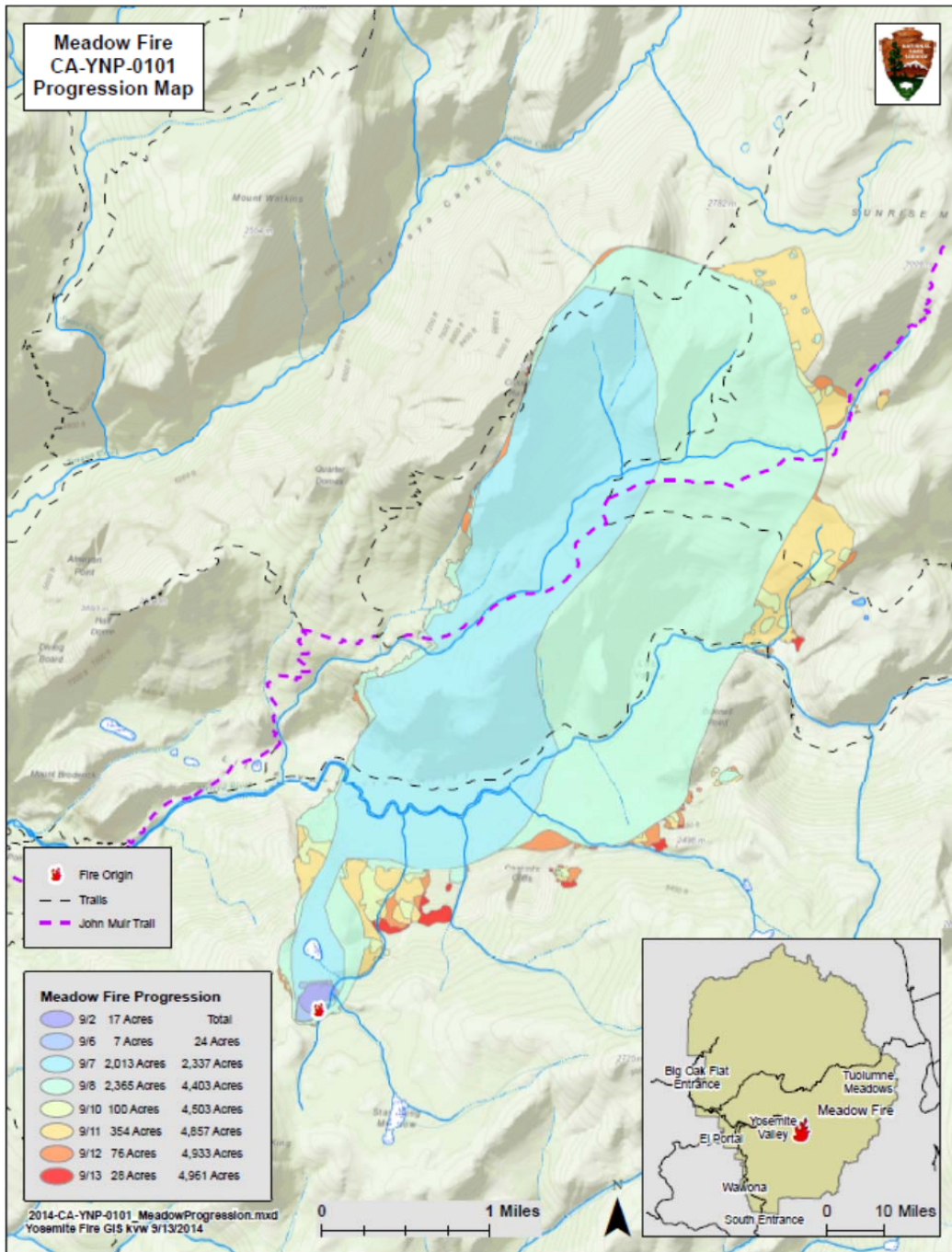


Figure 6. Meadow Fire progression map



Figure 7. Little Yosemite Cabin remains indicated by lines of nails



Figure 8. Hearth and remains of Little Yosemite Cabin

Fence remains also documented by the WHRS survey were partially relocated during the 2014 work. Though some rails on the ground, both on the north and south sides of the river were observed, some may have been consumed by fire.

Most of the interior known archeological sites were visited and assessed (Table 3). Most burned with moderate to high severity. Interior sites were less likely to sustain operational impacts. Resource Advisors (READs) were assigned to all divisions over the course of the fire but no encountered potential historic cultural resources were reported. One fire crew did report a campfire with an associated can scatter which was visited by an archeologist and determined to be modern.

Table 3. Summary of known resources in the Meadow Fire

Site Trinomial	Location	Direct Impacts Observed-Threats
P-22-002277	S of original fire	Unburned
P-22-001686	Lower Yosemite Valley (LYV)	Unburned, unconfirmed
CA-MRP-0091	LYV	Unburned
CA-MRP-0448	NE edge of fire	Unknown
CA-MRP-1532	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Unburned
CA-MRP-1604H	S of original fire	Unburned
CA-MRP-1605H	S of original fire	Unburned
CA-MRP-1625	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Moderate severity
CA-MRP-1866	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Unburned
CA-MRP-1867	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Unburned
CA-MRP-1868	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Unburned
CA-MRP-1916	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Moderate to high severity
CA-MRP-1966	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Burned, mixed severity
CA-MRP-2012	LYV	Unburned
CA-MRP-2205	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Unburned
CA-MRP-2208	N of LYV, J Muir trail	Moderate severity
CA-MRP-1765	W of fire	Unburned
WHRs Blazes 1111-1117	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Blazes 1118-1122	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Blazes 1106-1110	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Blazes 1124-1125	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Blaze 1123	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Structure 68	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Structure 69	S of original fire	Unburned
WHRs Feature 21	LYV	Burned
WHRs Linear Feature 21	LYV	Burned

Figures 9, 10 and 11 depict the extent of archeological survey coverage and distribution of known cultural resources in the final perimeter of the Meadow Fire. While many of the interior sites were visited by the park fire archeologist during the fire, the remote nature of many precluded follow-up visits and assessments. No BAER needs were identified despite the high severity fire effects observed in several areas. Active and widespread actions to prevent wide-scale erosion are not appropriate in the wilderness setting. Documentation of observations by READs is still ongoing and a more complete report will be submitted to all parties consistent with the stipulations in the 1999 PA.

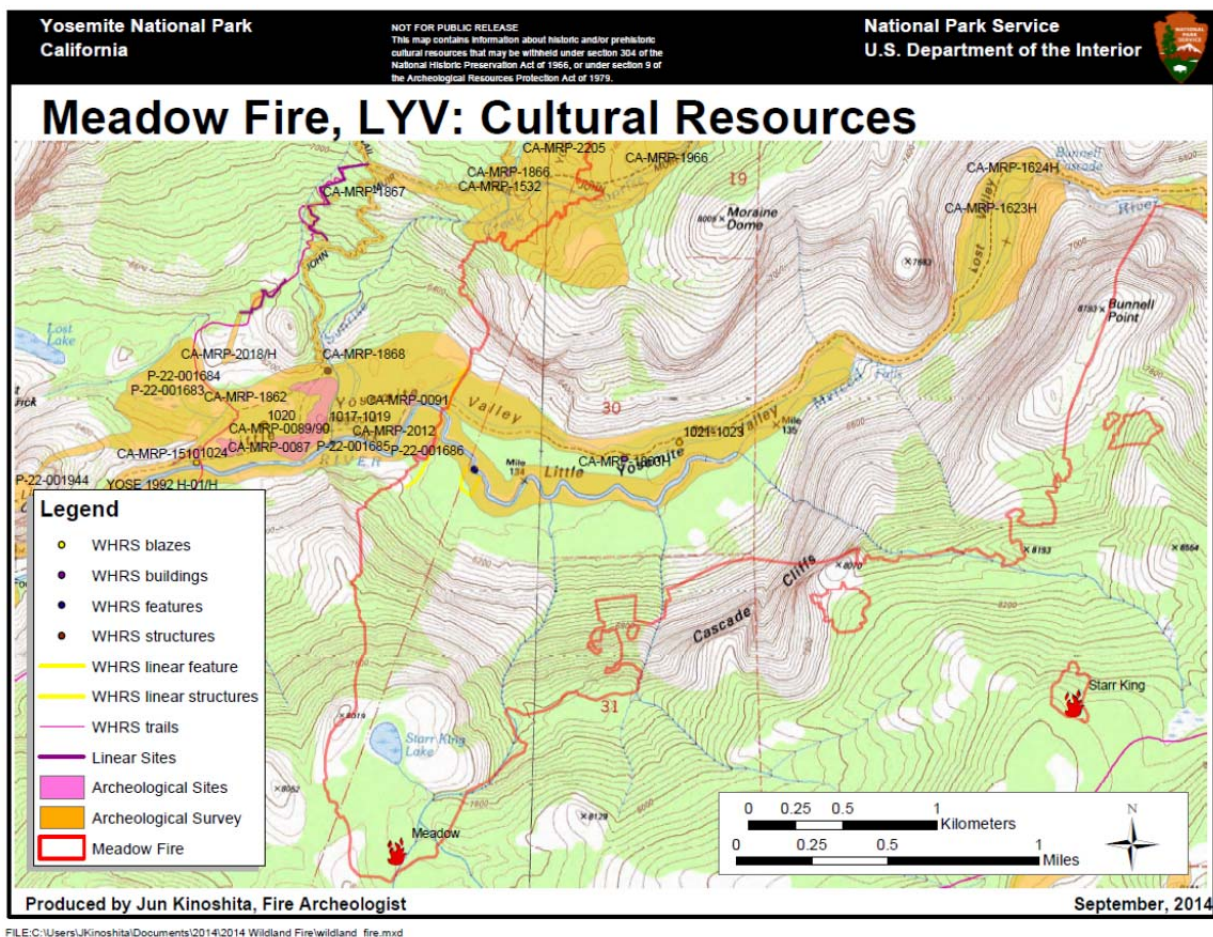


Figure 9. Meadow Fire LYV cultural resources

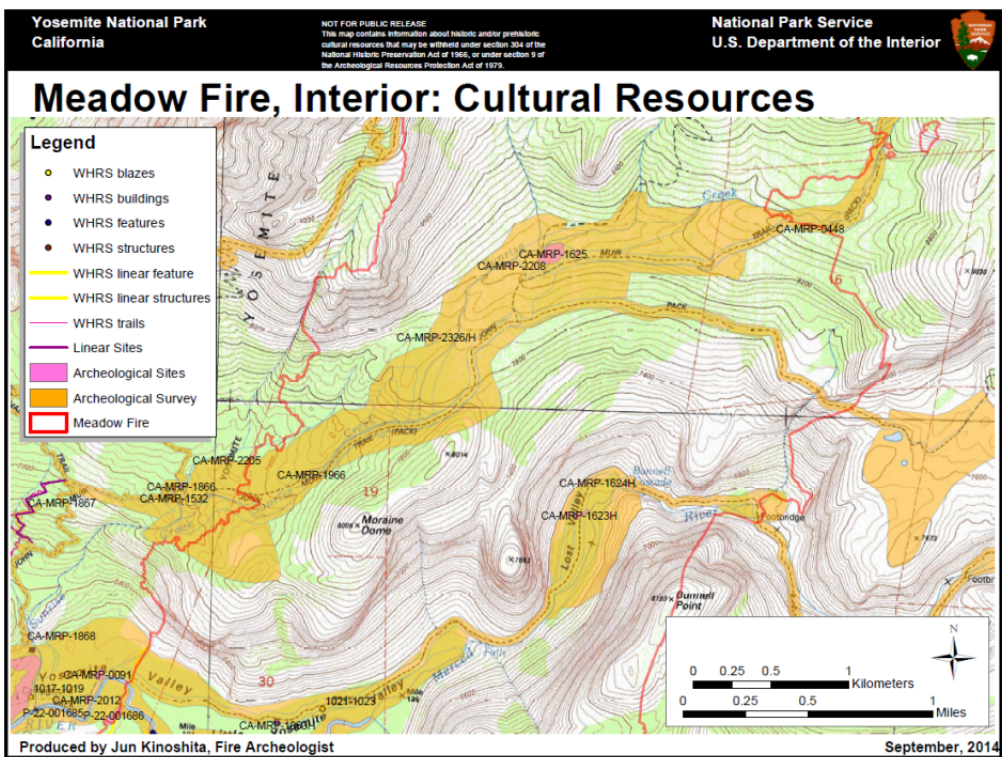


Figure 10. Meadow Fire interior cultural resources

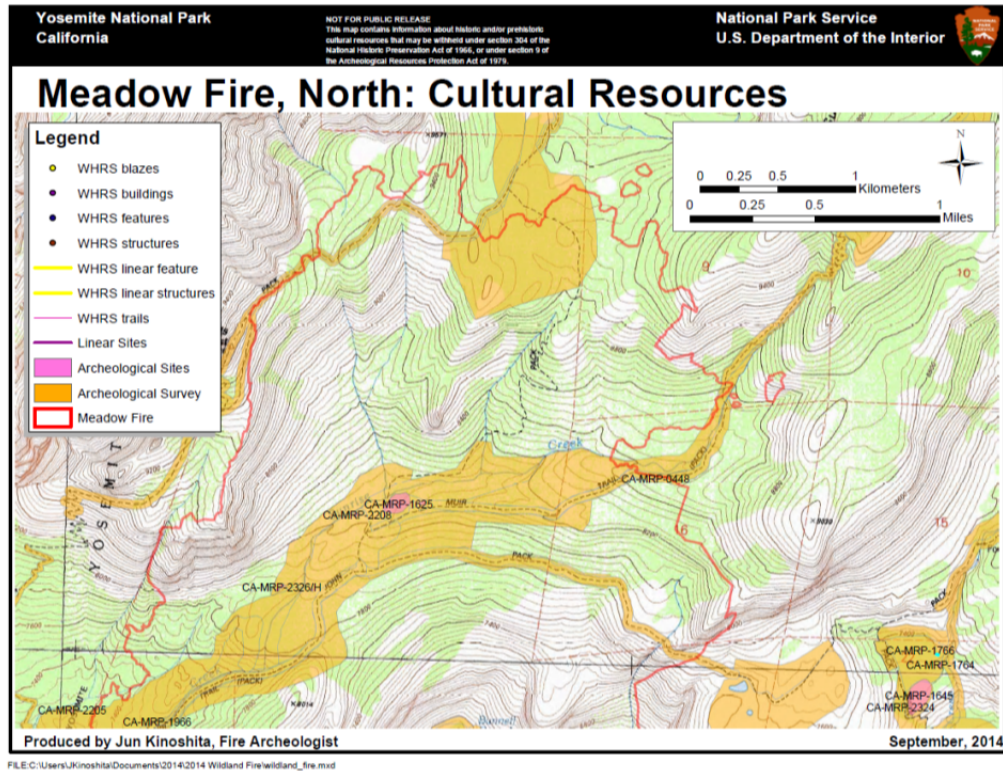


Figure 11. Meadow Fire northern cultural resources

Dog Rock Fire

This fire (312 acres), a human-caused fire started just east of El Portal on October 7, had the potential to reach the community of Foresta and/or the community of Yosemite West. The fire was complicated by a fatal plane crash of an air tanker during the early initial attack of the fire. Subsequent firefighting actions halted the spread of the fire later that night and the following morning.

The fire was declared out on November 2, 2014. No known cultural resources or historic properties were within the final Dog Rock Fire perimeter or were impacted by operations or post-fire effects, including recovery of the plane wreckage. No further report is forthcoming.

El Portal Fire

The El Portal Fire was first reported on the afternoon of July 26, 2014 on the administrative district of El Portal, immediately adjacent to the western boundary of Yosemite National Park. Difficult terrain and drought conditions complicated early efforts to control the fire, and contributed to its rapid growth and unpredictable behavior. The fire quickly burned upslope through Stanislaus National Forest lands, back onto park lands and into the private inholdings within the community of Foresta. The fire continued its fast-paced growth for several ensuing days.

The El Portal Fire was contained at 4,689 acres on August 4, 2014 with 1,092 acres on NPS lands and 3,597 acres on Forest Service lands (Figure 1). The rapid growth and fire behavior necessitated the use of heavy equipment on park land to aid in protection of the community and other values at risk. This effort included a range of tactics, such as use of bulldozers to create fire lines, hand-clearing for helispots, handlines, spike camps, and infrastructure set-up for water drafting and pumping efforts. Afterwards, excavators were used to rehabilitate dozer line and crews rehabilitated handline.

Yosemite National Park employed READs, archeologists and other technical specialists in efforts to avoid, minimize, or otherwise mitigate impacts of the fire and fire suppression actions to natural and cultural resources where possible, and to document impacts to resources when avoidance was impossible. Examples of effects to historic properties include archeological sites damaged by fireline construction.

Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest delegated responsibility for the management of the incident to a Type I Incident Management Team through a Delegation of Authority. That agreement specified key resource values to be protected, including Wilderness, natural, and cultural resources. It also directed the team to incorporate and work with READs and technical specialists such as archeologists, to identify and protect those resources where possible. Figure 2 illustrates the relationships of READs and technical specialists such as archeologists (in this document all are referred to as “READ”s) in the Incident Command System.

The READs were the park’s primary effort to address historic properties during the El Portal Fire. READs acted under the direction of the park’s cultural resources management team to work closely with the Incident Command Team, participated in discussions regarding emergency response activities, and

monitored work that had the potential to affect historic properties. READs also directed emergency actions to stabilize historic properties and prevent further damage, recommended (where feasible) actions to avoid known or discovered historic properties during emergency response activities, and documented affected historic properties where avoidance was not feasible. For example, the potential for the fire to threaten the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoias was discussed as early as Monday, July 28, and discussion included potential for burning out of the Merced Grove and dozer contingency lines between the fire and the grove. The Merced Grove was not burned out. As the fire continued to expand, park staff began discussions with the team about protecting the historic Merced Grove Ranger Cabin. The cabin was later wrapped by Yosemite fire personnel.

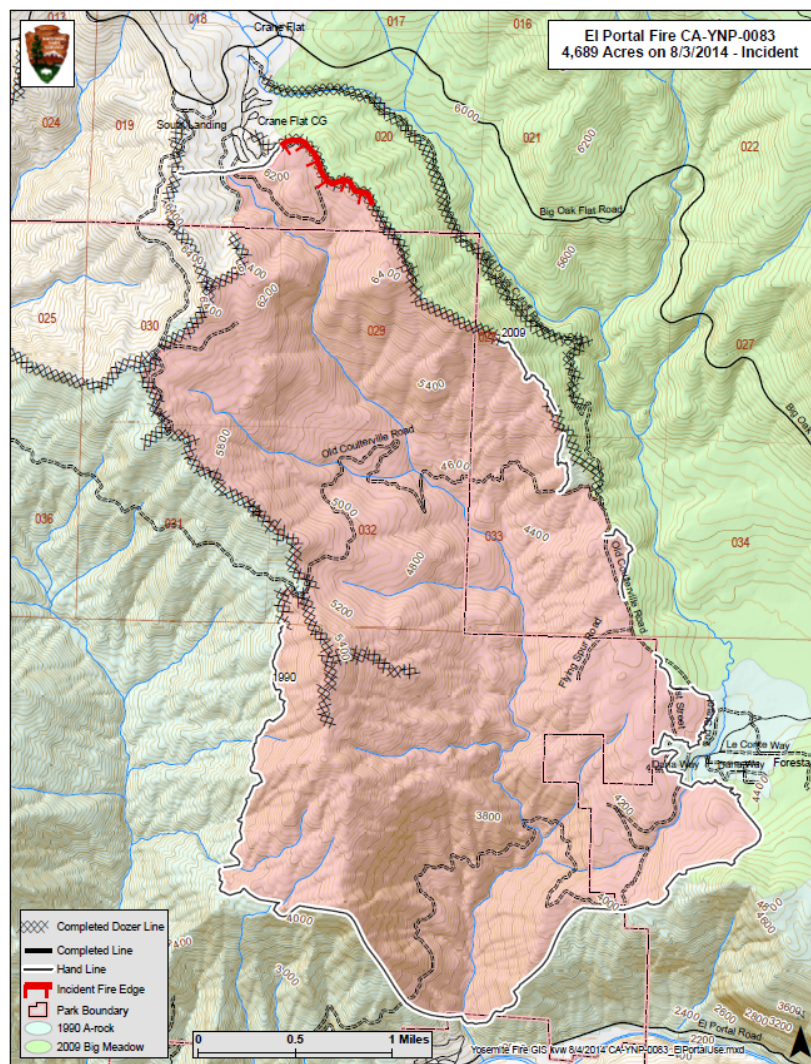


Figure 12. 2014 El Portal Fire in Yosemite National Park, example incident map.

READs also provided regular updates to the park's cultural resources management and leadership teams to support tribal and SHPO notifications. Towards the close of the emergency actions, park cultural resource specialists and READs worked with BAER team to identify resource values at risk from post-fire effects. Archeologists later worked with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG & E) archeological

contractor Far Western Anthropological Research Group, to monitor power pole replacements, and park employees implementing post-fire protection or stabilization treatments.

Potential damage to the McCauley Ranch sawmill was one of the most notable direct impacts to historic properties during the El Portal Fire. Other direct impacts included the loss of flammable elements associated with historic sites, which may accelerate the potential for site decomposition, and the loss of site datums. Other historic artifacts and features sustained smoke and soot damage or were melted, cracked, oxidized, or entirely consumed by the flames. Prehistoric sites sustained some cracking and spalling of groundstone artifacts and features, and possible loss of sources of scientific data such as radiocarbon dates, obsidian hydration dates, and protein residue analysis. In addition, many fallen trees have landed on both historic and prehistoric sites and features and stump, or root, holes are abundant at certain sites, potentially exposing subsurface deposits.

A NPS Resource Advisor (READ) was assigned to the El Portal incident on July 27, 2014, and immediately enlisted support from NPS and USDA, Forest Service Cultural Resource Specialists. A total of five cultural resource specialists (archeologists) were assigned to the fireline along with other READs throughout the duration of the incident, working with fire suppression personnel to minimize impacts to cultural resources.

The NPS Tribal Liaison worked with the El Portal Fire Incident Management Team to initiate consultation with interested tribal partners. A notification e-mail was sent on July 27, 2014. The NPS also provided initial notification of the incident to the California SHPO on July 29, pursuant to the “Natural Disasters” stipulation in the 1999 PA.

The park worked closely through the Incident Management Team and provided Resource Advisors and archeologists. In turn, the team and park undertook emergency actions to stabilize historic properties, and prevent further damage. These included actions such as protecting the Merced Grove Ranger cabin. READs and archeologists monitored work in and around historic properties, avoiding and documenting impacts. Where properties were discovered, documentation was begun and those properties were avoided or treated as well. The park consulted with and continues to consult with associated American Indian tribes and groups. The final report on the El Portal Fire will be submitted to all parties consistent with the stipulations in the 1999 PA.