



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

**Memorandum**

**To:** Jim Donovan, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park  
**From:** Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
**Subject:** NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation (65468)

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 be no adverse effect on historical, cultural, or archeological resources.
- There will not be serious or long-term undesirable environmental or visual effects.

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

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

- Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

For complete compliance information see PEPC Project 65468.

*// Don L. Neubacher //* \_\_\_\_\_

Don L. Neubacher

Enclosure (with attachments)

cc: Statutory Compliance File

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



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation

**PEPC Project Number:** 65468

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

The National Park Service will be working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to rehabilitate seven existing traffic count stations that were originally installed in Yosemite during the mid-1980s. Traffic count station data is collected to inform NPS and FHWA management systems (Bridge, Pavements, Safety and Congestion) and is also used as a basis for visitation statistics. Traffic data is used by planners and designers in the NPS and FHWA.

Count station equipment is approaching the end its life span. Project work includes the replacement of inductive wire loops in pavement on roadways, shallow trenching for wire in conduit, installation of pull boxes, replacement of counter units in equipment boxes, and connection to existing phone or data lines. The specific locations of proposed work are (1) El Portal Road at the Arch Rock Entrance Station, (2) Southside Drive in Leidig Meadow at the Valley Chapel, (3) Northside Drive at Camp 4, (4) the Big Oak Flat and Tioga Road intersection at Crane Flat, (5) the Wawona and Glacier Point Road intersection at Chinquapin, (6) Big Oak Flat Road at the Big Oak Flat Entrance Station, and (7) Tioga Road near the Wilderness Center.

**Project Locations:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigation(s):**

- Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

**CE Citation:** C.15 Installation of underground utilities in previously disturbed areas having stable soils, or in an existing utility right-of-way.

**Explanation:**

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

**Superintendent:** // Don L. Neubacher //

**Date:** 9/14/2016

Don L. Neubacher

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**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
<b>B.</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	
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
<b>G.</b> 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	
<b>H.</b> 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	
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
<b>K.</b> Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
<b>L.</b> Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

Updated Sept 2015 per NPS NEPA Handbook

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Project Title:** 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation  
**PEPC Project Number:** 65468  
**PMIS Number:** 138988  
**Project Type:** Repair/Rehabilitation (REHAB)  
**Project Location:**  
**County, State:** Mariposa County, CA  
 Tuolumne County, CA  
**Project Leader:** Jim Donovan

### B. RESOURCE IMPACTS TO CONSIDER:

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
<b>Air</b> Air Quality	None	
<b>Biological</b> Nonnative or Exotic Species	None	
<b>Biological</b> Species of Special Concern or Their Habitat	None	
<b>Biological</b> Vegetation	None	
<b>Biological</b> Wildlife and/or Wildlife Habitat including terrestrial and aquatic species	None	
<b>Cultural</b> Archeological Resources	Potential	The Southside Drive site near the Yosemite Valley Chapel, North Side Drive site at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection site, and the Chinquapin project location, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.
<b>Cultural</b> Cultural Landscapes	Potential	This project takes place in the Chinquapin Historic District, the Tioga Road Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley Historic District
<b>Cultural</b> Ethnographic Resources	None	
<b>Cultural</b>	None	

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential for Impact</b>	<b>Potential Issues &amp; Impacts</b>
Museum Collections		
<b>Cultural</b> Prehistoric/historic structures	Potential	This project takes place in the Chinquapin Historic District, Tioga Road Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District and at the Tioga Pass Entrance Station
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Features	Potential	Shallow trenching is required for installation of inductive loop counter cable, wire in conduit, and pull boxes. Inductive loop will be installed up to 2.5 inches under pavement. Conduit trenching up to 18 inches deep. Pull boxes will be level with the ground up to 18 in. by 11 in.
<b>Geological</b> Geologic Processes	None	
<b>Lightscares</b> Lightscares	None	
<b>Other</b> Human Health and Safety	None	
<b>Other</b> Operational	Potential	There will be temporary lane closures while installing loop counters under the roadway.
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Land Use	None	
<b>Socioeconomic</b> Minority and low-income populations, size, migration patterns, etc.	None	
<b>Soundscapes</b> Soundscapes	Potential	Short-term noise impacts would be caused by the pavement saw, limited in duration to one day at each site.
<b>Viewsheds</b> Viewsheds	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Recreation Resources	None	
<b>Visitor Use and Experience</b> Visitor Use and Experience	None	There will be temporary lane closures and small hold-ups in traffic flow while installing loop counters under the roadway.
<b>Water</b> Floodplains	None	
<b>Water</b> Marine or Estuarine Resources	None	
<b>Water</b> Water Quality or Quantity	None	
<b>Water</b>	None	

Resource	Potential for Impact	Potential Issues & Impacts
Wetlands		
<b>Water</b> Wild and Scenic River	Potential	The Arch Rock entrance station site and the Southside Drive site near the Yosemite Valley Chapel are within the Merced Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The Tioga Road location near the Wilderness Center is in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Corridor.
<b>Wilderness</b> Wilderness	None	

**Recommended:**

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>// Kristin Anderson //</u> Compliance Specialist – Kristin Anderson	<u>8/31/2016</u>
<u>// Erin Davenport // (acting for Madelyn Ruffner)</u> Compliance Program Manager – Madelyn Ruffner	<u>9/8/2016</u>
<u>// Madelyn Ruffner // (acting for Randy Fong)</u> Chief, Project Management – Randy Fong	<u>9/9/2016</u>

**Approved:**

Superintendent	Date
<u>// Don L. Neubacher //</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>9/14/2016</u>

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# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park

### 2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** 2016-016 Parkwide Traffic Counters Rehabilitation

**Prepared by:** Kristin Anderson    **Date Prepared:** 8/31/2016    **Telephone:** 209-379-1002

**PEPC Project Number:** 65468

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

Varies, installations occur in selected areas parkwide, primarily at park entrances and within Yosemite Valley.

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

No  
 Yes

Source or reference:

### 4. **Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

- **Archeological resources affected:**

**Name and number(s):** Yosemite Valley Archeological District  
**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Crane Flat Archeological District  
**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Archeological Site  
**NR status:**

**Archeological Resources Notes:** Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

#### **Historical Structures/Resources Affected:**

**Name and number(s):** Yosemite Valley Historic District  
**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Tioga Pass Entrance Station    **LCS** 005794    **Asset** MA03200

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Tioga Road Entrance Historic District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Chinquapin Historic District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:**

**Name and number(s):** Yosemite Valley Historic District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Tioga Road Entrance Historic District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Name and number(s):** Chinquapin Historic District

**NR status:** 1 - Listed in Register and documented

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** No Ethnographic sites identified within proposed project boundaries. Tribal consultation sent via project letter dated June 7, 2016. No comments received regarding project to date.

**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

Yes Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

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

Yes Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

Yes Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. 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:

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[ X ] 106 Advisor  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 07/14/2016

*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:

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[  ] Anthropologist

Name: Eirik Thorsgard

Date: 07/05/2016

Comments: No Ethnographic sites identified within proposed project boundaries. Tribal consultation sent via project letter dated June 7, 2016. No comments received regarding project to date.

*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:

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[  ] Archeologist

Name: Sara Dolan

Date: 07/20/2016

Comments: Project areas located in these locations 4803, 4804, 4805, 4806, 4807, are within/nearby sensitive cultural resources.

*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: Project areas located at Southside Drive near the Chapel, North Side Drive at Camp 4, the Crane Flat Intersection, and Chinquapin, are within or nearby sensitive cultural resources. Archeological monitoring is required in these project areas. The project manager should coordinate with cultural resources staff at least two weeks prior to project implementation.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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[  ] Historian

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/13/2016

*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:

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[  ] Historical Architect

Name: Scott Carpenter

Date: 07/13/2016

*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:

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Historical Landscape Architect  
Name: Kimball Koch  
Date: 06/29/2016

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:

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No Reviews From: Curator, Other Advisor

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## C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Assessment of Effect:

No Potential to Cause Effects  
 No Historic Properties Affected  
 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.

#### 1999 Programmatic Agreement as amended in 2016

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

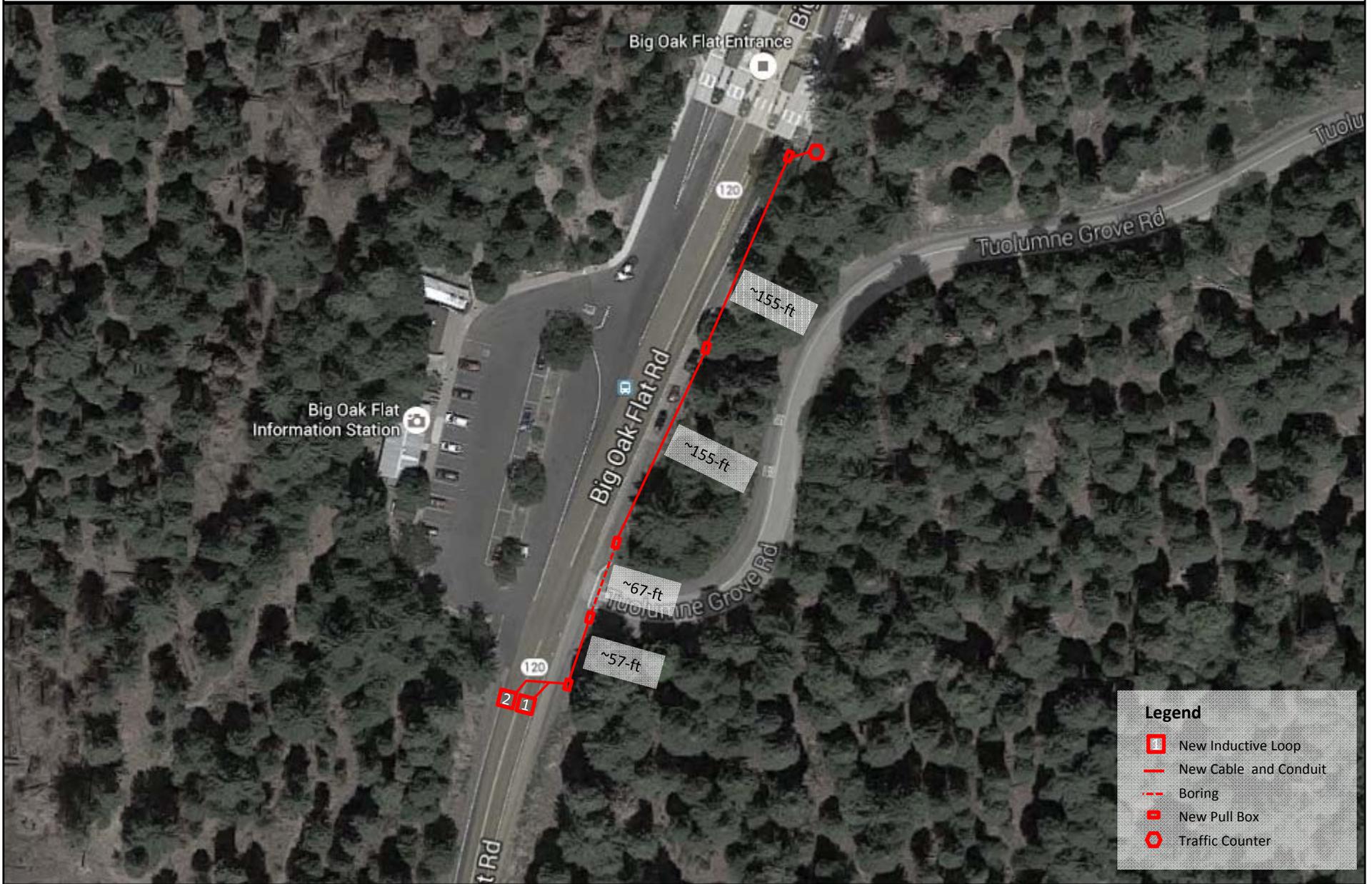
H. Memo to ACHP

SHPO/THPO Notes: Project specific letter sent to tribes on June 7, 2016. No comments received as of July 20, 2016.





FOTSC 4808 – Big Oak Flat Entrance – Alt 1 (preferred)

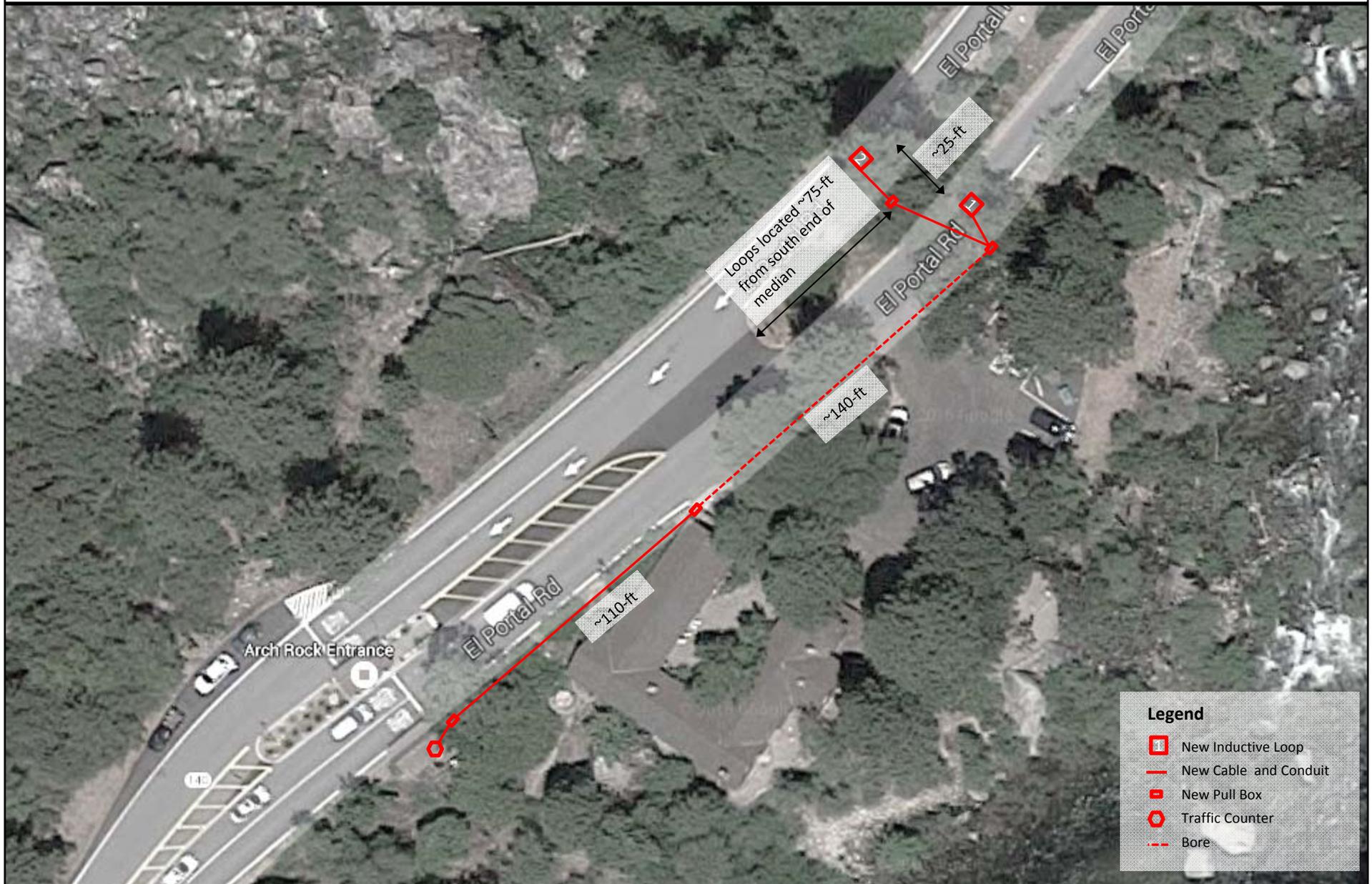


Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4802 – Arch Rock Entrance



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4805 – Crane Flat Junction

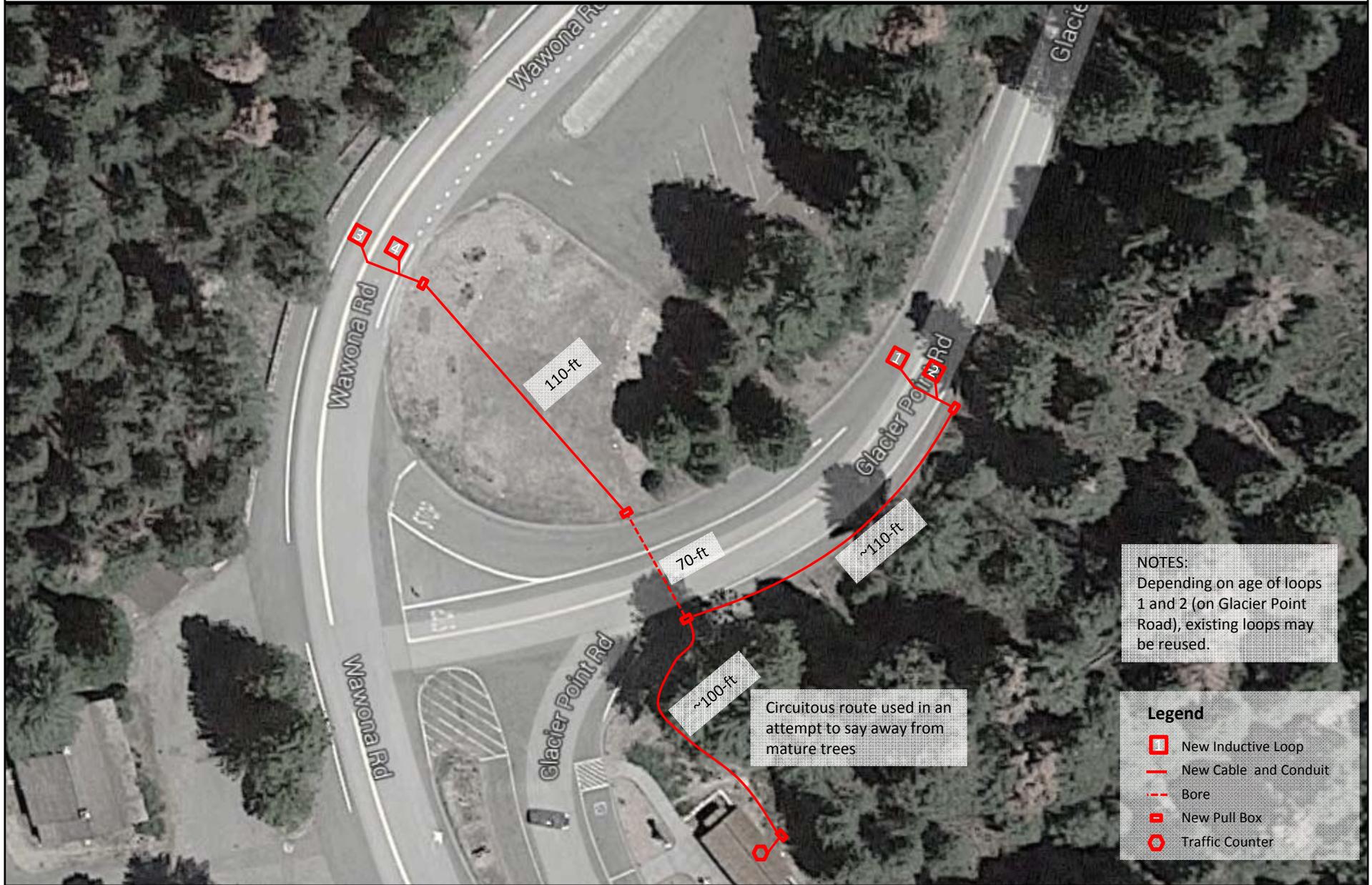


Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4807 – Chinquapin



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4803 – Valley Chapel



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



**FOTSC 4804 – Camp 4 – ALT 1 (Preferred Alternative)**

**NOTES**

1. Cabinet to be located on back side of ITS sign
2. New loops to be placed ~70-ft west of driveway and ~5-ft west of existing groundhogs
3. Lanes need to be minimum of 10-ft wide
4. Loops to be 5'x5'

**Legend**

- New Inductive Loop
- New Cable and Conduit
- New Pull Box
- New Cabinet



Not to scale

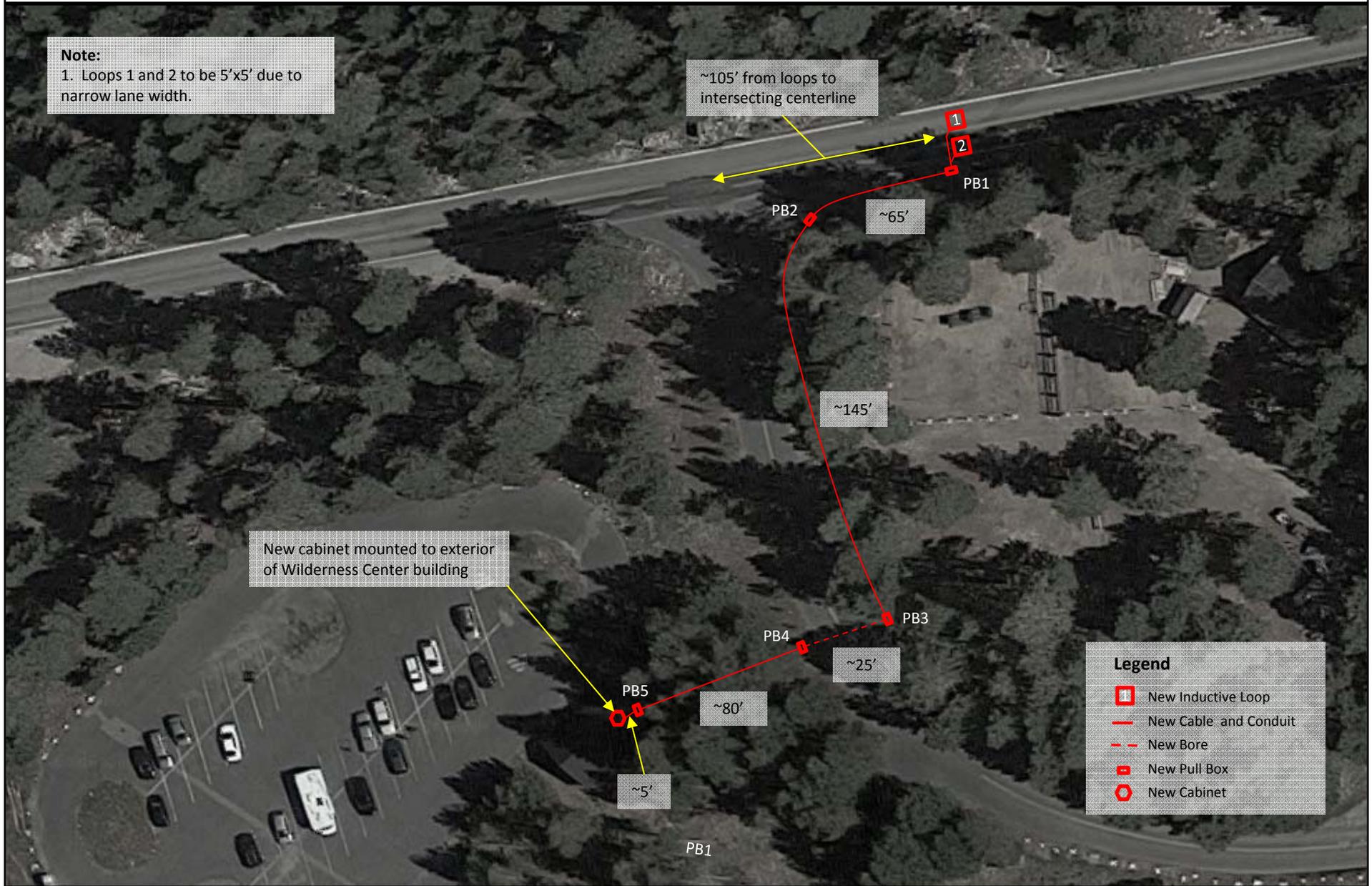
Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)



FOTSC 4806 – Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center (Alternative 2)

Note:

1. Loops 1 and 2 to be 5'x5' due to narrow lane width.



Not to scale

Produce by the NPS's Field Operations Technical Support Center (FOTSC)