



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
L7615(YOSE-PM)

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

## Memorandum

To: Tom Medema

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and Section 106 Clearance: 2006-024 Foresta Guy House Well Drilling and Water System Upgrade (14325)

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

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

The subject proposed project, therefore, is now cleared for all NEPA and Section 106 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:

- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure participation by an American Indian representative to assist in the protection of American Indian traditional cultural resources.

//Larry Harris// acting  
Michael J. Tollefson

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.*



# National Park Service

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## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2006-024 Foresta Guy House Well Drilling and Water System Upgrade

**PIN:** 14325

**Date:** March 22, 2010

**Project Description:** Under a cooperative agreement YI maintains and uses the Guy House. The existing well is situated on the North West corner of the lot and approximately 15' from the creek. The age of the well is undetermined and is estimated to be 12' to 20' deep. The well draws water using a 3/4 horsepower single phase centrifuge pump into a 200 gallon reservoir tank perched on a timber scaffold.

YI seeks to relocate the properties existing well, install a new 2000 gallon reservoir tank and trench new water pipes/utility lines to the building. The existing well and reservoir tank would be removed. The position of the existing overhead utility lines does not allow the drill rig to be easily accommodated on the property and YI propose that the well be drilled on a neighboring lot owned by NPS.

A contractor would be hired to drill the new well. The well pump would be subsurface negating the need for a well house. Impact would be reduced by drilling on the now disused driveway of Parcel 4, Lot 6, Block 19. Trenching would require the use of mechanical digging equipment to sink a trench 16" deep to the house; this trenching would run the most direct line to the house. Equipment would be staged in the same area on existing driveway area.

A new 2000 gallon reservoir tank would be installed to the south of the existing storage shed, protected and concealed by a wooden enclosure (cedar dog eared fence). The tank would be bedded on a crib made of railroad ties and backfilled with gravel. The pressure tank would be installed inside the existing storage shed. If the well produces sufficient water the reservoir tank would not be installed and only a pressure tank would be incorporated into the design. These alternatives would include the removal of the current water tank scaffold and associated water pipes (these are buried 2"- 6" below the surface). This removal would only be undertaken following consultation with the NPS Historical Architect.

Project Alternatives considered and dismissed - YI proposed to rehabilitate the existing well to existing state standards. This would include the installation of a well sleeve, a new pump, the addition of a 2000 gallon reservoir tank and pressure tank. Additional work would include the replacement and retrenching of water lines to building. The reservoir tank and pressure tank would be situated in the same locations as above. On investigation the option to rehabilitate is not available - the overhead power cables and need to move heavy drilling equipment immediately next to the creek are problematic. More importantly the location of the well and the well's construction are so significantly in contradiction of State Standards that it would be impossible to rehabilitate to the appropriate standards.

The closing of the old well would conform to existing state and federal standards - including but not limited to back filling with appropriate material and installation of capping materials.

To support this project an archeological subsurface survey was completed. The report stipulated that an

archeological monitor be on-site during any ground disturbance. A No Adverse Effect determination would be made in accordance with the monitor stipulation.

**Project Location:**  
**Mariposa County, CA**

**Mitigations:**

- Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.
- Ensure participation by an American Indian representative to assist in the protection of American Indian traditional cultural resources.

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

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

**On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.**

//Larry Harris// acting  
**Park Superintendent**

1/26/09  
**Date**

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



# National Park Service

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

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

Today's Date: **October 31, 2008**

Date Form Initiated: **10/27/2008**

### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Yosemite NP**

Project Title: **2006-024 Foresta Guy House Well Drilling and Water System Upgrade**

PEPC Project Number: **14325**

Project Type: **Facility Maintenance (FM)**

Project Location: County, State: **Mariposa, California** District, Section: **Foresta, Parcel 4, Lot 6, Block 19**

Project Leader: **Tom Medema**

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Under a cooperative agreement YI maintains and uses the Guy House. The existing well is situated on the North West corner of the lot and approximately 15' from the creek. The age of the well is undetermined and is estimated to be 12' to 20' deep. The well draws water using a 3/4 horsepower single phase centrifuge pump into a 200 gallon reservoir tank perched on a timber scaffold.

YI seeks to relocate the properties existing well, install a new 2000 gallon reservoir tank and trench new water pipes/utility lines to the building. The existing well and reservoir tank would be removed. The position of the existing overhead utility lines does not allow the drill rig to be easily accommodated on the property and YI propose that the well be drilled on a neighboring lot owned by NPS.

A contractor would be hired to drill the new well. The well pump would be subsurface negating the need for a well house. Impact would be reduced by drilling on the now disused driveway of Parcel 4, Lot 6, Block 19. Trenching would require the use of mechanical digging equipment to sink a trench 16" deep to the house; this trenching would run the most direct line to the house. Equipment would be staged in the same area on existing driveway area.

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Project Alternatives considered and dismissed - YI proposed to rehabilitate the existing well to existing state

standards. This would include the installation of a well sleeve, a new pump, the addition of a 2000 gallon reservoir tank and pressure tank. Additional work would include the replacement and retrenching of water lines to building. The reservoir tank and pressure tank would be situated in the same locations as above. On investigation the option to rehabilitate is not available - the overhead power cables and need to move heavy drilling equipment immediately next to the creek are problematic. More importantly the location of the well and the well's construction are so significantly in contradiction of State Standards that it would be impossible to rehabilitate to the appropriate standards.

The closing of the old well would conform to existing state and federal standards - including but not limited to back filling with appropriate material and installation of capping materials.

To support this project an archeological subsurface survey was completed. The report stipulated that an archeological monitor be on-site during any ground disturbance. A No Adverse Effect determination would be made in accordance with the monitor stipulation.

Preliminary drawings attached? **Yes**

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

**C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:**

<b>Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources</b>	<b>No Effect</b>	<b>Negligible Effects</b>	<b>Minor Effects</b>	<b>Exceeds Minor Effects</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.		X			Tank removal area affected measures 10' x 10' x 20'. Drilling can be up to 300' deep depending on water availability. Trenching includes 24' x 157' from the well to the house.
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality		X			Temporary air emissions during the well drilling.
4. Soundscapes		X			Soundscape will be temporarily affected during the water system work.
5. Water quality or quantity	X				
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	X				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				

9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	X				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	X				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage site; no historic properties would be adversely affected by implementing this project.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	X				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)		X			See Comment 1, below.
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	X				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X				
18. Archeological resources		X			Foresta - Big Meadow Archeological District.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		X			Guy House; managed as a historic property.
20. Cultural landscapes		X			Foresta Historic District.
21. Ethnographic resources		X			El Portal - Foresta American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	X				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
24. Minority and low income populations,	X				

ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.					
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	X				Upgrading the water system is a good practice of long-term management of resources.
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

Comments:

**1. Ensure that all equipment and materials brought into the park are free of non-native, invasive plants and animals, and noxious weeds. All staff working on site shall be informed of and follow best management practices for preventing the introduction and spread of non-native, invasive species as described in Division 1 Specifications, Section 1335.**

**D. MANDATORY CRITERIA**

<b>Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Comment or Data Needed to Determine</b>
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X		Mitigated; the assessment of effect is "No Adverse Effect."
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		X		

D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		X		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X		See Comment 1, above, under C. Potential Resource Effects to Consider.

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

#### **E. OTHER INFORMATION**

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

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

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

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

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No**

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

## F. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Michael Tollefson	Superintendent
Kevin Cann	Deputy Superintendent
Linda Dahl	Chief of Planning
Bill Delaney	Chief of Project Management
Larry Harris	Chief of Administration Management
Dennis Mattiuzzi	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Chris Stein	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Steve Shackelton	Chief Ranger
Tom Medema	Project Leader
Mark Butler	Environmental Planning and Compliance
	Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kenec	NEPA Specialist

## H. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

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

Recommended:

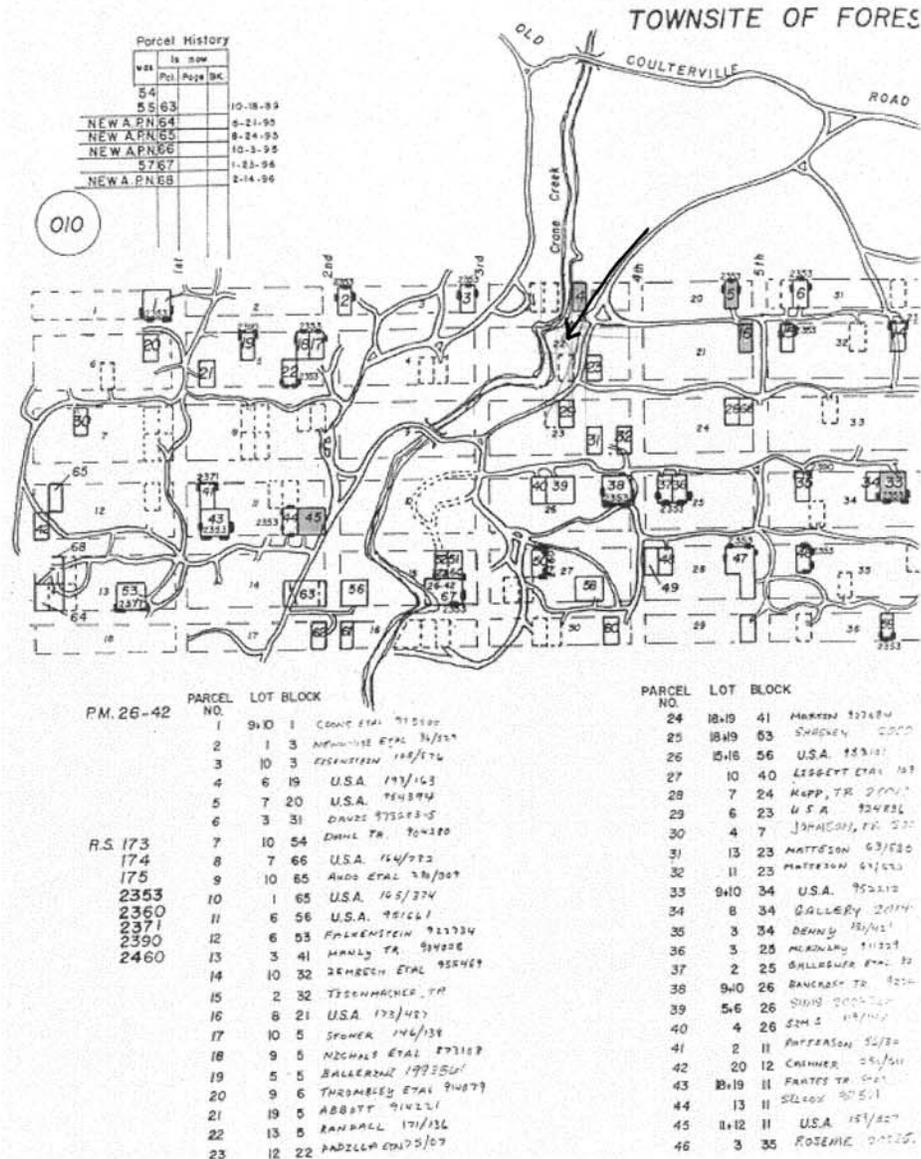
<b>Compliance Specialist</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>//Renea Kenec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kenec	<u>11/03/08</u>
<u>//Mark Butler//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Mark Butler	<u>11/05/08</u>
<u>//Bill Delaney//</u> Chief, Project Management – Bill Delaney	<u>11/12/08</u>

Approved:

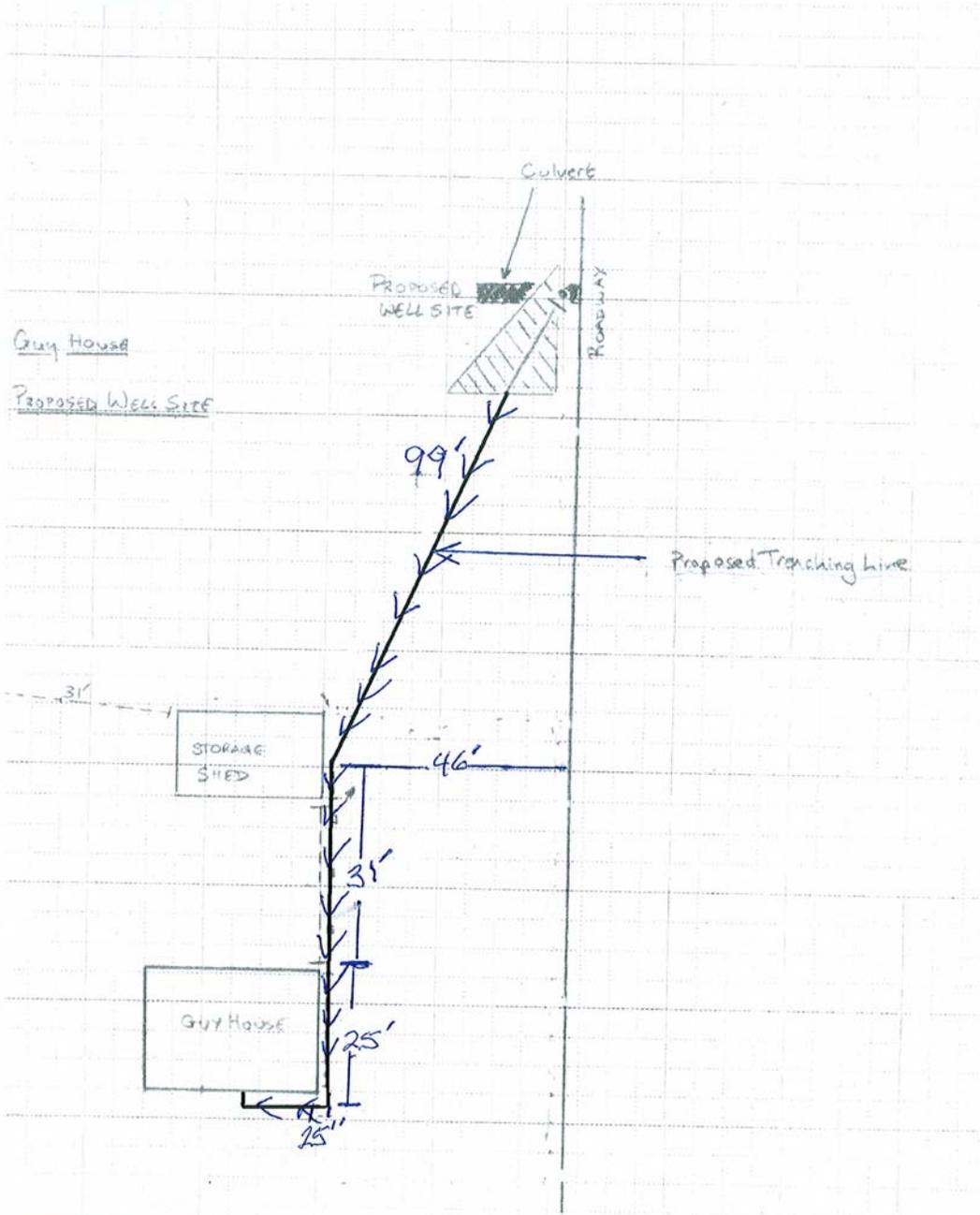
<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>//Larry Harris// acting</u> Michael Tollefson	<u>11/12/08</u>

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**Map 1 Location of Guy House in Foresta**



- Guy House is located on Lot 22
- Proposed well site is located on the driveway south of Lot 4



### SITE PLAN

or better, an accurate site plan based upon the attached checklist is required. Incomplete site plans causing delays. If you have any questions, please give us a call and we'll be happy to assist you.

NORTH  
ARROW  
REQUIRED





Guy House



Proposed Well Site



# National Park Service

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## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Yosemite NP Park District: Foresta

#### 2. Project Description:

a. Project Name: 2006-024 Foresta Guy House Well Drilling and Water System Upgrade Date: November 3, 2008 Park Project Number: 14325

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

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

No  
 Yes Source or reference Foresta-Big Meadow Archeological District

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

### 4. Potentially Affected Resources:

#### Archeological resources affected?

Name and number(s): Foresta-Big Meadow Archeological District  
NR status: 1 - Listed in Register and documented

#### Historical structures/resources affected?

Name and number(s): Guy House \_ Location: Foresta  
NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district-  
Notes: Managed as a historic property; DOE incomplete

#### Cultural landscapes affected?

Name and number(s): Foresta Historic District  
NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district  
Notes: This HD is proposed and has not been inventoried or evaluated.

#### Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): El Portal-Foresta American Indian Traditional Cultural Property  
NR status: 8 - Within a Register-eligible district--please name district

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

Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

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. Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:**

(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

- Participation by American Indian representative to assist in the protection of American Indian traditional cultural resources.

**7. Supporting Study Data:**

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

- 8. Attachments:** [ ] Maps [ ] Archeological survey, if applicable [ ] Drawings [ ] Specifications  
 [ ] Photographs [ ] Scope of Work [ ] Site plan [ ] List of Materials [ ] Samples  
 [ ] Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Jeannette Simons Date: 11/3/08  
 Title Historic Preservation Officer Telephone: 209-379-1372

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

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

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**[X] ARCHEOLOGIST**

Name: Laura Kim  
 Date: 10/22/2008  
 Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
 Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected x No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect  
 \_\_\_ Programmatic Exclusion  
 Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: YOSE 1999 PA, Stipulation VII.C.2.e&h.

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**[ ] CURATOR**

Name:

Date:

Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ] Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_\_\_\_ No Adverse Effect \_\_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_\_\_ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

---

**[X] ANTHROPOLOGIST**

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 10/22/2008

Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected x No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Participation by American Indian representative to assist in the protection of American Indian traditional cultural resources recommended.

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**[X] HISTORIAN**

Name: Patrick Chapin

Date: 10/30/2008

Comments: None

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected x No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None

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**[X] HISTORICAL ARCHITECT**

Name: Sueann Brown

Date: 10/30/2008

Comments: None.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]  
Assessment of Effect: \_\_ No Historic Properties Affected x No Adverse Effect \_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: None.

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**[X] HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 10/30/2008

Comments: None.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]

Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected  x  No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect  
\_\_\_ Programmatic Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

None.

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**[ ] 106 Advisor**

Name:

Date:

Comments:

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ] Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ No Historic  
Properties Affected \_\_\_\_\_ No Adverse Effect \_\_\_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_\_\_ Programmatic  
Exclusion

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

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

**1. Assessment of Effect:**

\_\_\_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected  X  No Adverse Effect \_\_\_\_\_ Adverse Effect

**2. Compliance requirements:**

[ ] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[ ] B. PROGRAMMATIC EXCLUSION UNDER THE 1995 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC  
AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV of the 1995  
Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE EXCLUSION: Exclusion IV.B  
(Specify 1-13 or IV.C addition to the list of exclusions.)

[ ] 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 1995 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.  
Specify plan/EA/EIS: \_\_\_\_\_

D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

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

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

F. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

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

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer //Jeannette Simons//

Date 11/03/08

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

**D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

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

Signature of Superintendent //Larry Harris// acting

Date 11/12/08