



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: Victor Goldman, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-050 Crane Flat, Improve Forest & Meadow Habitat (31434)

The Leadership 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 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:

- American Indian site visit is scheduled for August 24, 2010. Measures developed to avoid or minimize potential impacts to American Indian resources will be integrated into the project design and implemented, as appropriate.

\\ 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.*



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## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** 2010-050 Crane Flat, Improve Forest & Meadow Habitat

**PEPC Project Number:** 31434

**Project Description:** This project proposes to:

- Remove 2500 feet of asphalt on the portion of railroad grade located between the Tuolumne Grove road and the Big Oak Flat road.
- Restore 400 feet of wetland habitat in Crane Flat Meadow by removing fill material from the portion of the railroad grade that bisects wet meadow habitat.
- The California Department of Water Resources weather station that is located on the railroad grade will be removed during the soil removal and replaced in the same location.

The project will remove the approximately 1000 cubic yards of imported fill material that was used to establish the grade through the wet meadow, remove the culverts that drained this section, and then be re-contoured to original topography. The project will remove approximately 350 cubic yards of asphalt along the length of the proposed section of railroad grade. This will be accomplished with the use of manual labor and earth moving equipment such as an excavator, skid steer loader, back hoe and wheeled loader. A staging area for the fill and asphalt will be located on the railroad grade adjacent to the "overflow Tuolumne Grove dirt parking area," see map. This material will be removed by the fall of 2011 to a location outside the park. The staging area will not impact overflow visitor parking for the Tuolumne Grove. The project is not located in designated or proposed wilderness. Wetland delineation will be completed in September 2010 and associated permitted will be processed in the following months.

**Project Location:**

Mariposa County, CA

**Mitigations:**

- No mitigations identified.

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):

**E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.**

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

Park Superintendent     // Don L. Neubacher //    

Date     9-9-10    



National Park  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

### DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: **08/02/2010**

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

#### A. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-050 Crane Flat, Improve Forest & Meadow Habitat  
**PEPC Project Number:** 31434  
**Project Type:** Resource Management Plan/Site Plan (RMP)  
**Project Location:** County, State: **Mariposa, California**  
**Project Leader:** Victor Goldman

Preliminary drawings attached? Yes

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

#### B. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.			Minor		There will be soil disturbance as the fill material is removed; approximately 1000 feet of fill.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality		Negligible			Excavation equipment will produce some temporary exhaust.
4. Soundscapes		Negligible			During the restoration project there will be some increased noise.
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics		Negligible			Surface hydrology would be

<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>
					restored after this project has been completed.
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				By removing the asphalt and fill material, the wet meadow habitat would be restored to natural conditions.
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				Crane Flat is a known area for Great Grey owls; this work will not disrupt their critical seasons.
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				
18. Archeological resources		Negligible			Crane flat Archeological District.
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes		Negligible			
21. Ethnographic resources		Negligible			Crane Flat American Indian Culture Traditional Property.
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript	No				

<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>
collections)					
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	No				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				Meadow restoration meets the park's long-term management of resources.
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

**C. 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?		No		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		No		Mitigated; the restoration of the Crane Flat wetland area will have positive impacts on the area's natural resources.
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		No		

<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>
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		No		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		No		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		No		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		No		
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		No		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		No		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		No		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		No		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		No		

**D. OTHER INFORMATION**

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? No

Did personnel conduct a site visit? No

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

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? No

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

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

**E. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES**

<u>Interdisciplinary Team</u>	<u>Field of Expertise</u>
Don L. Neubacher	Superintendent
Kathleen Morse	Chief of Planning
Mark Butler	Chief of Project Management
Katariina Tuovinen	Chief of Administration Management
Ed Walls	Chief of Facilities Management
Niki Nicholas	Chief of Resources Management & Science
Marty Nielson	Chief of Business and Revenue Management
Tom Medema	Chief of Interpretation and Education
Charles Cuvelier	Chief of Visitor and Resource Protection
Victor Goldman	Project Leader
Elexis Mayer	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager
Jeannette Simons	NHPA Specialist
Renea Kennec	NEPA Specialist

**F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY**

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

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<p>_____ <i>\\ Renea Kennec \\</i> _____                      Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec</p>	<p>_____ 9-9-10 _____</p>
<p>_____ <i>\\Sue Clark \\ - Acting</i> _____                      Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer</p>	<p>_____ 9-9-10 _____</p>
<p>_____ <i>\\ Mark A Butler \\</i> _____                      Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler</p>	<p>_____ 9-9-10 _____</p>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<p>_____ <i>\\Don L. Neubacher\\</i> _____                      Don L. Neubacher</p>	<p>_____ 9-9-10 _____</p>

*The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance*



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park  
Date: 08/17/2010

## PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **August 17, 2010**

### PROJECT INFORMATION

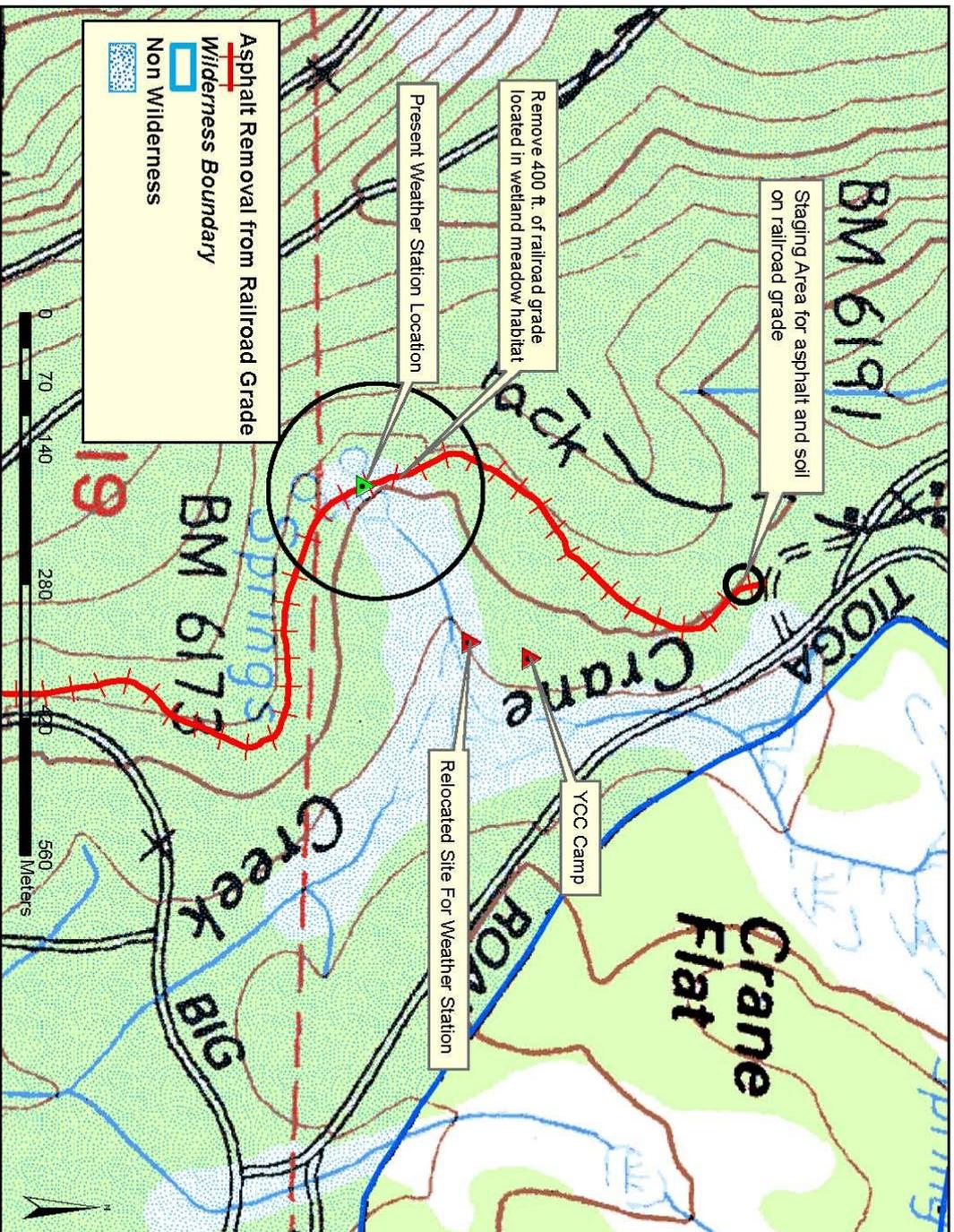
**Park Name:** Yosemite National Park  
**Project Title:** 2010-050 Crane Flat, Improve Forest & Meadow Habitat  
**PEPC Project Number:** 31434  
**Project Type:** Resource Management Plan/Site Plan (RMP)  
**Project Location:** County, State: **Mariposa, California**  
**Project Leader:** Victor Goldman

### PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
<b>SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST</b>				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		Great Grey owl; park Wildlife Management staff has determined that no wildlife will be affected.
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	Yes			
<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
5. Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			There will be soil disturbance as the fill material is removed; approximately 1000 feet of fill. The installation of the weather station will require a hole two feet in diameter and three feet deep.
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			
7. Entail alteration of a historic		No		

<b>ESF Addendum Questions</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Data Needed to Determine/Notes</b>
structure or cultural landscape?				
8. Has a National Register form been completed?		No		
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
<b>WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will affect the free-flow of the river?		No		
12. Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?		No		
13. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?			N/A	
14. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		No		
15. Will the project encroach or intrude upon the Wild and Scenic River corridor?		No		
16. Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?		No		
17. Consistent with the provisions in the Merced River Plan Settlement Agreement?			N/A	
<b>WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST</b>				
18. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
19. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		

# Improve Forest And Meadow Habitat At Crane Flat





## ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

### A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park    **Park District:** Crane Flat

#### 2. Project Description:

a. **Project Name:** 2010-050 Crane Flat, Improve Forest & Meadow Habitat    **Date:** August 17, 2010  
**PEPC Project ID Number:** 31434

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

No

Yes, Source or reference: **Crane Flat Archeological District; Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property.**

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): **Crane Flat Archeological District**

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

Ethnographic resources affected?

Name and number(s): **Crane Flat American Indian Traditional Cultural Property proposed and managed as.**

#### 5. The proposed action will:

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

Replace historic features/elements in kind

Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

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

Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

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:**

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

**7. Supporting Study Data:**

**8. Attachments:**

Maps  Archeological survey, if applicable  Drawings  Specifications  Photographs  
 Scope of Work  Site plan  List of Materials  Samples  Other:

**Prepared by:** Renea Kennec **Date:** August 17, 2010 **Title:** Environmental Protection Specialist **Telephone:** 209-379-1038

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

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

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Archeologist

Name: Laura Kim

Date: 07/14/2010

Comments: Work will occur on archeological site/historic linear resource CA-MRP-720H, a branch line of the North Side District of the Yosemite Sugarpine Logging Operations. A small portion of Branch line 2 will be removed.

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance*

Assessment of Effect:  No Historic Properties Affected  No Adverse Effect  Adverse Effect  Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Update site record to reflect removal of portion of contributing resource.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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Anthropologist

Name: Jeannette Simons

Date: 08/17/2010

Comments: American Indian Liaison. Site visit on August 24, 2010, requested that tower remain in same location to avoid adverse impact to American Indian site.

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

Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected \_\_\_ No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Measures developed to avoid potential impacts to American Indian resources have been integrated into the project design for implementation.

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[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect

Name: David Humphrey

Date: 06/23/2010

Comments: None.

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

Assessment of Effect: \_\_\_ No Historic Properties Affected  X  No Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Adverse Effect \_\_\_ Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: None.

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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No Reviews From: Curator, Historical Architect, Historian, Other Advisor, Anthropologist

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

1. Assessment of Effect:

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

2. Compliance requirements:

[ ] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

[ ] B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria  
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.

Specify plan/EA/EIS: \_\_\_\_\_

D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT

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

Specify: 1999 Programmatic Agreement

E. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED BY USE OF NEPA

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

F. No Potential to Cause Effects [800.3(a)(1)]

G. STIPULATIONS/CONDITIONS

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

Recommended by Park Section 106 coordinator:

Signature of Historic Preservation Officer \\ Jeannette Simons \\

Date: 9-9-10

**D. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

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

Signature of Superintendent \\ Don L. Neubacher \\

Date: 9-9-10

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