



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: Cyndi Mattiuzzi, Project Manager, Yosemite National Park

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: NEPA and NHPA Clearance: 2010-010 Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Replacement and Installation (29734)

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:

- No mitigations identified.

//Charles Cuvelier// (acting)
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.*



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/21/2010

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: 2010-010 Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Replacement and Installation

PEPC Project Number: 29734

Project Description: This project updates 24 interpretive wayside exhibits throughout the park, the majority being on the Tioga Road. Most of these waysides are in-kind replacement. However, three new exhibits will be placed at two new sites. One will be placed at the Lukens Lake trailhead in conjunction with the Tioga Trailheads project. Two will be replaced at new sites in the Tioga Pass overflow parking lot.

One other existing wayside will be addressed during installation. This exhibit was relocated to Half Dome View due to vandalism at its previous site. It was removed from the Half Dome view during the installation of the new exhibit and will be relocated back to its original location at Foresta Trailhead.

New sign installation includes post holes measuring one foot in diameter and three feet deep.

Project Location:

Mariposa County, CA
Tuolumne 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):

C.5 Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.

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

Park Superintendent //Charles Cuvelier// (acting)

Date 8/2/10

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/21/2010

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)

DO-12 APPENDIX 1

Date Form Initiated: 07/21/2010

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: 2010-010 Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Replacement and Installation
PEPC Project Number: 29734
Project Type: Wayside Exhibit Replacement (OTHER)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Cyndi Mattiuzzi

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.		Negligible			Three new signs would require post holes measuring one foot in diameter and three feet deep.
2. From geohazards	No				
3. Air quality	No				
4. Soundscapes	No				
5. Water quality or quantity	No				
6. Streamflow characteristics	No				
7. Marine or estuarine resources	No				
8. Floodplains or wetlands	No				

9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	No				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	No				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat	No				
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	No				Yosemite National Park is a World Heritage Site.
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat	No				
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat	No				
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	No				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.	No				
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	No				Visitor experience will be enhanced by new exhibits.
18. Archeological resources	No				
19. Prehistoric/historic structure	No				
20. Cultural landscapes	No				
21. Ethnographic resources	No				
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)	No				
23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	No				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	No				
25. Energy resources	No				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	No				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	No				
28. Urban quality, gateway	No				

communities, etc.					
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity	No				
30. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	No				

C. MANDATORY CRITERIA

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

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.

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
Cyndi Mattiuzzi	Project Leader

Elexis Mayer Jeannette Simons Renea Kennec	Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager NHPA Specialist NEPA Specialist
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F. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

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

Recommended:

Compliance Specialists	Date
<u>//Renea Kennec//</u> Compliance Specialist – Renea Kennec	<u>7/21/10</u>
<u>//Elexis Mayer//</u> Compliance Program Manager – Elexis Mayer	<u>7/26/10</u>
<u>//Mark A. Butler//</u> Chief, Project Management – Mark Butler	<u>7/29/10</u>

Approved:

Superintendent	Date
<u>//Charles Cuvelier// (acting)</u> Don L. Neubacher	<u>8/2/10</u>

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/21/2010

PARK ESF ADDENDUM

Today's Date: **July 21, 2010**

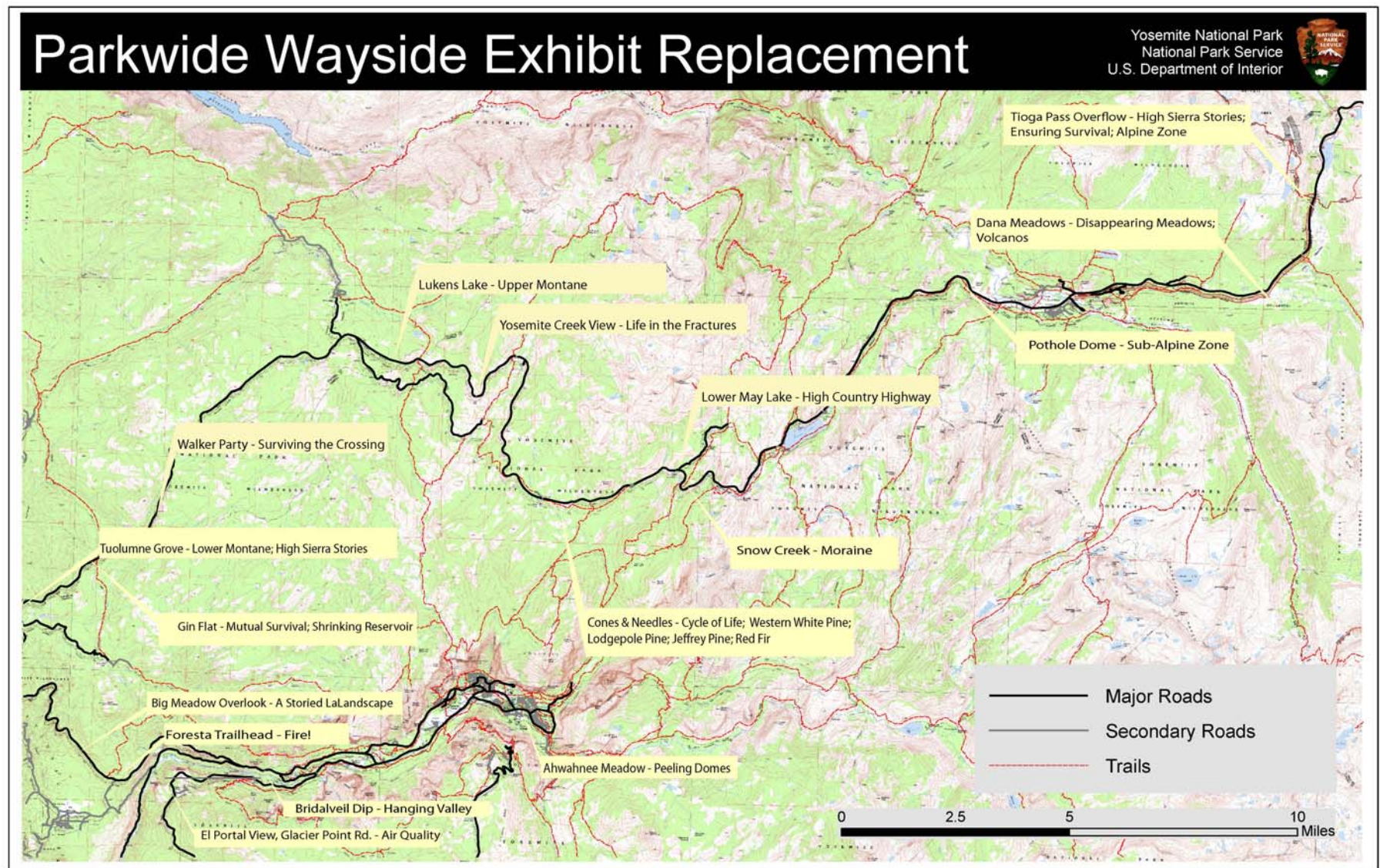
PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite National Park
Project Title: 2010-010 Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Replacement and Installation
PEPC Project Number: 29734
Project Type: Wayside Exhibit Replacement (OTHER)
Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California
Project Location: County, State: Tuolumne, California
Project Leader: Cyndi Mattiuzzi

PARK ESF ADDENDUM QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ESF Addendum Questions	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST				
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?		No		
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?		No		
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?		No		
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?		No		
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST				
5. Entail ground disturbance?	Yes			Sign posts require one foot diameter by three feet deep holes.
6. Are any archeological or ethnographic sites located within the area of potential effect?	Yes			The archeological assessment of effect is "No Historic Properties."
7. Entail alteration of a historic structure or cultural landscape?		No		

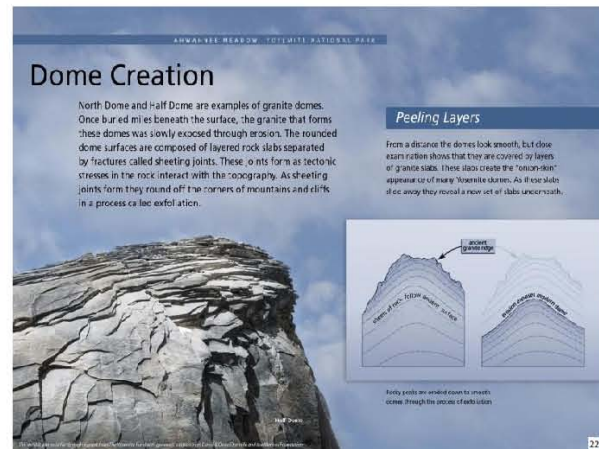
8. Has a National Register form been completed?		No		
9. Are there any structures on the park's List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?		No		
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST				
10. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor?		No		
11. Fall within the bed and banks AND will 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?		No		
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	
WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST				
18. Within designated Wilderness?		No		
19. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?		No		



On A Clear Day - El Portal View, Glacier Point Road



Peeling Domes - Ahwahnee Meadow, Yosemite Valley



Hanging Valley - Bridalveil Dip, Yosemite Valley



Fire! - Foresta Overlook/Trailhead, Big Oak Flat Road

- To address some vandalism issues at the Foresta Trailhead, this wayside had been relocated to the Half Dome View, but removed once the new exhibit was installed. It will be reinstalled at its historically existing exhibit site at Foresta trailhead.



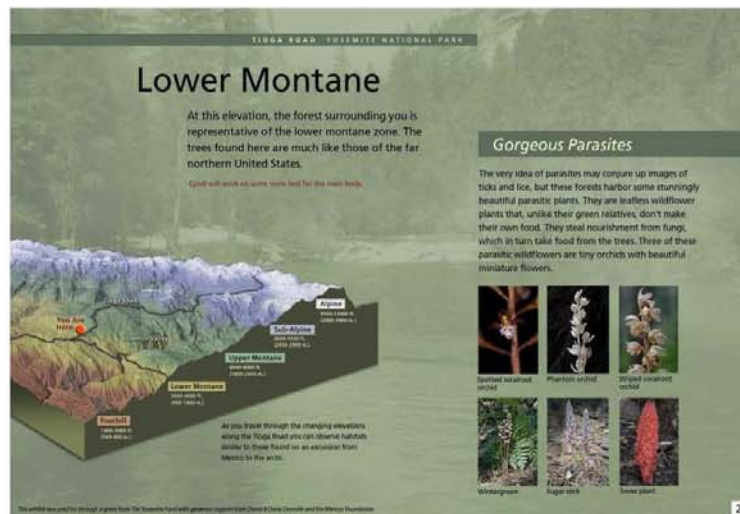
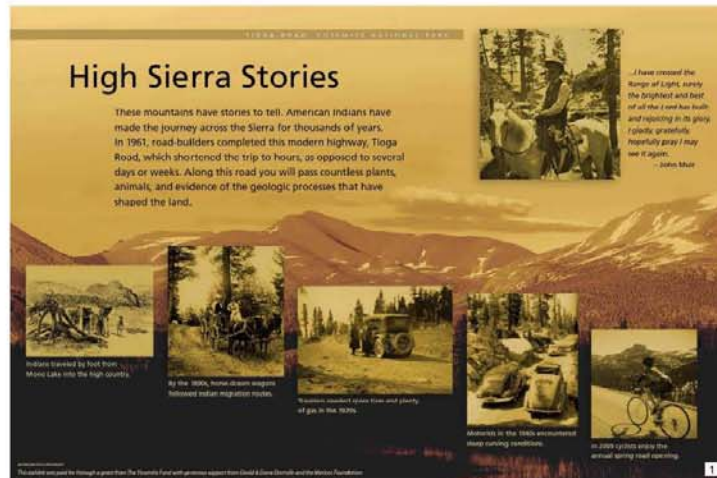
A Storied Landscape - Big Meadow Overlook, Big Oak Flat Road

- New wayside installed in historically existing exhibit site at Big Meadow Overlook.
- Previously approved Native American text is being reused from the current exhibit in Foresta.



High Sierra Stories; Lower Montane - Tuolumne Grove parking, Tioga Road

- Two new waysides installed in historically existing exhibit locations adjacent to the East side of the Tuolumne Grove parking lot.
- Native American text approved by Jeannette Simons 10/27/09.

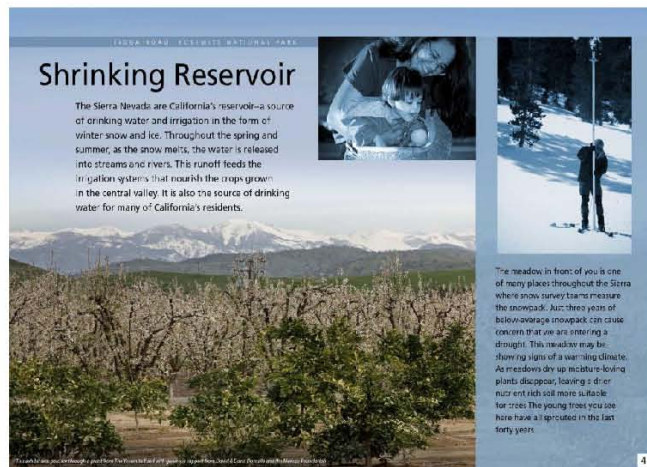


Mutual Survival; Shrinking Reservoir- Gin Flat, Tioga Road



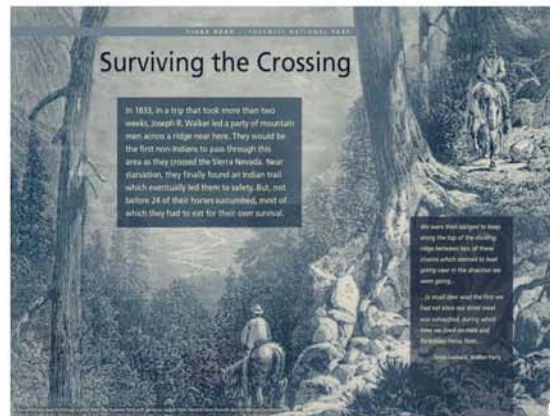
- One in kind replacement and one installed in a historically existing exhibit location.

- Native American text approved by Jeannette Simons 10/27/09.



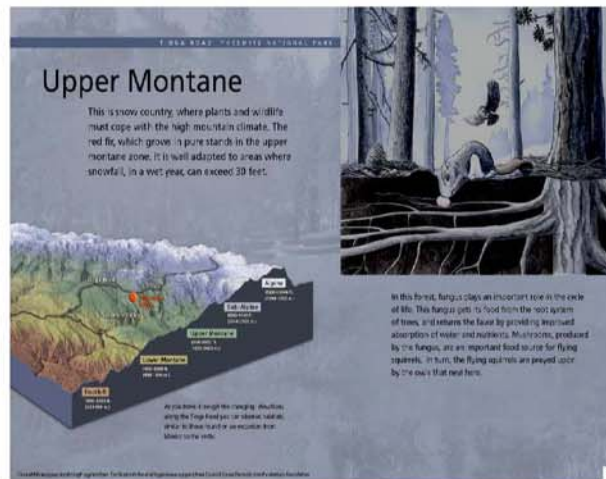
Surviving the Crossing - Walker Party, Tioga Road

- New exhibit to be installed in historically existing location.



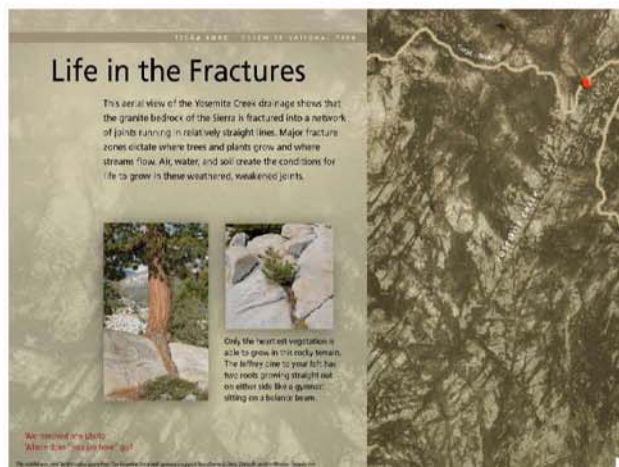
Upper Montane - Luken's Lake , Tioga Road

- New exhibit . The installation will be phased into Tioga Trailheads project.



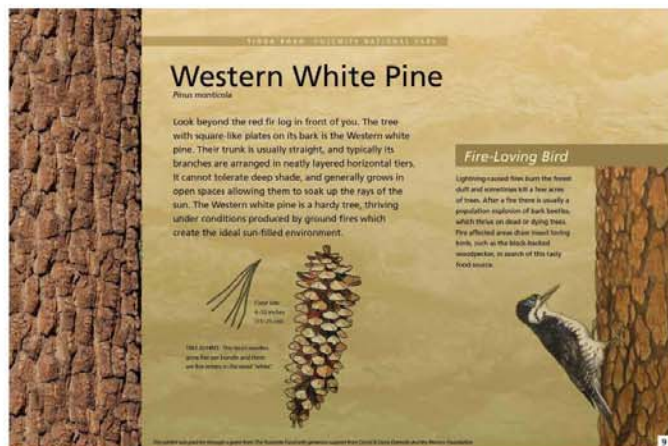
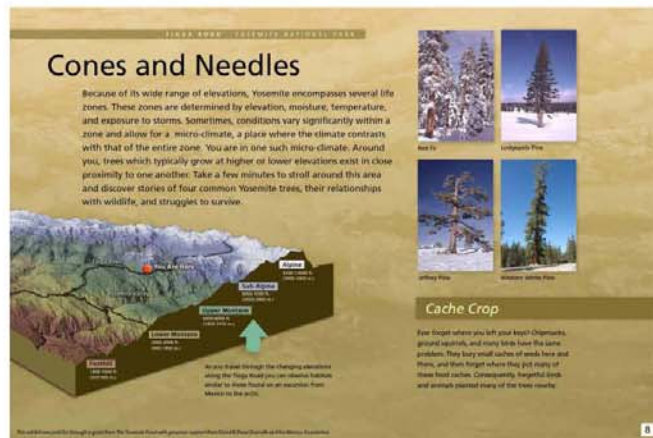
Life in the Fractures - Yosemite Creek View, Tioga Road

- New exhibit to be installed in historically existing location. The installation will be phased into Tioga Trailheads project.

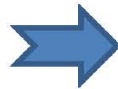


Cones and Needles - Tioga Road

- In-kind replacement.
- There are five exhibits to be installed at this location. The first exhibit will be moved down to the parking lot to provide ADA access. It will capture, in abbreviated form, the interpretive elements addressed in the other exhibits.
- The other four exhibits are located in an unimproved area that does not have an accessible route.

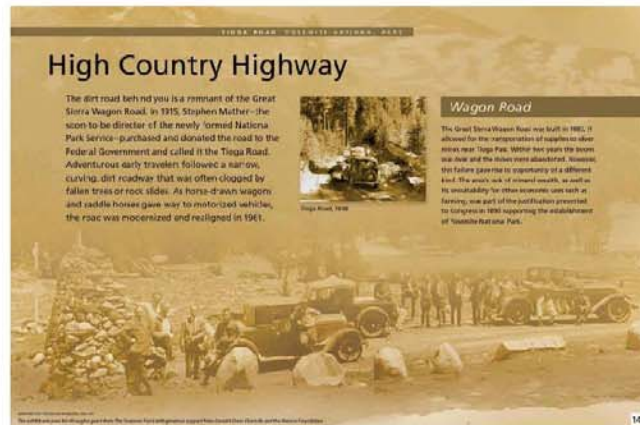


Cones and Needles cont.'d



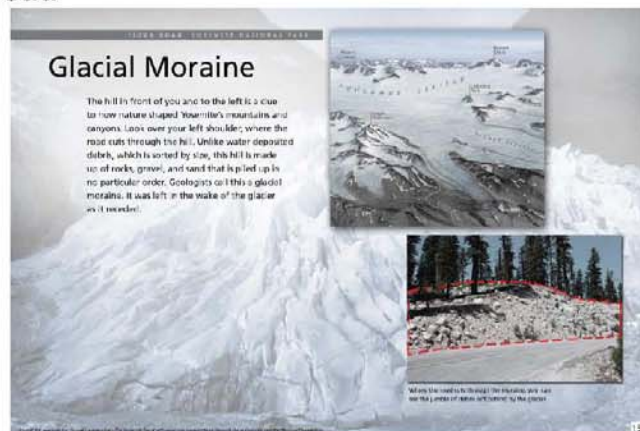
May Lake Trailhead - Tioga Road

- The installation will be phased into Tioga Trailheads project.

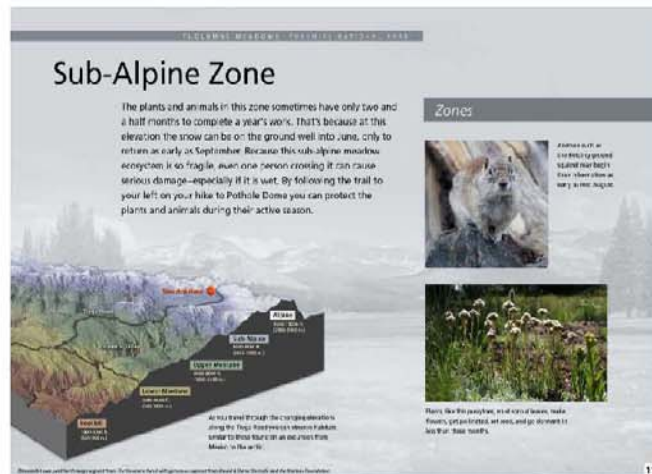


Glacial Moraine - Snow Creek Trailhead

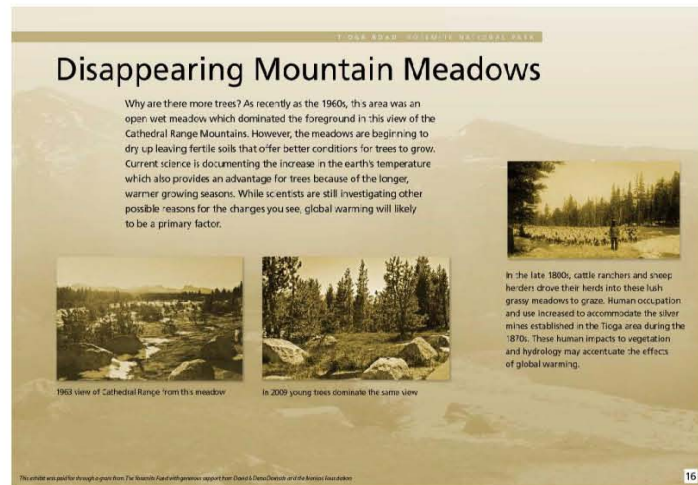
- New exhibit to be installed in historically existing location.
- The installation will be phased into Tioga Trailheads project.



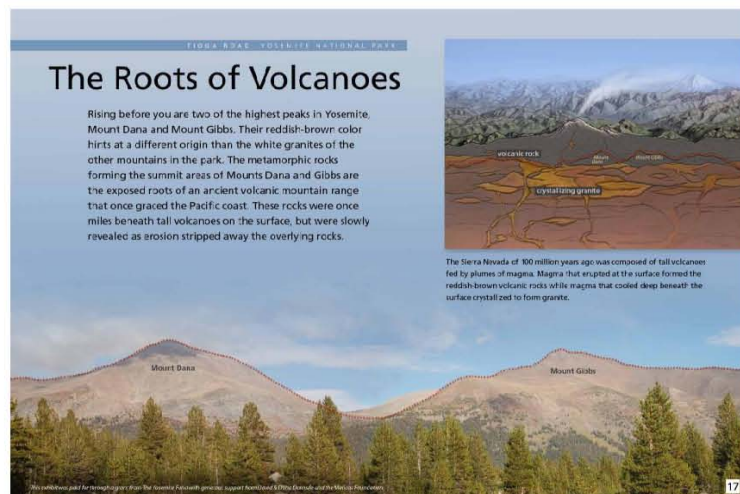
Sub-Alpine Zone - Pothole Dome



Disappearing Mountain Meadows; The Roots of Volcanoes – Dana Fork, Tioga Road



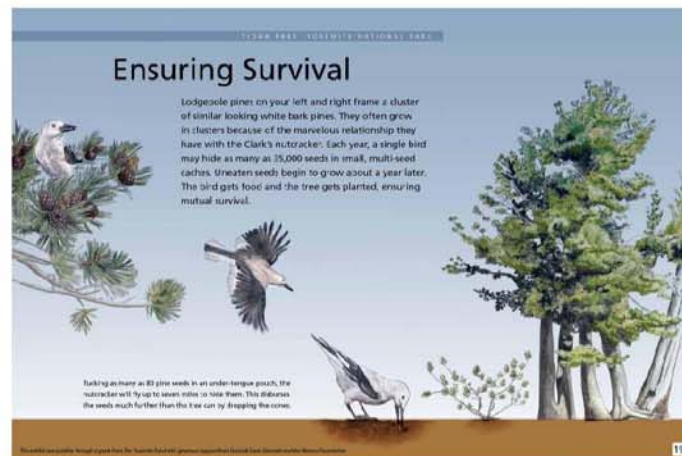
- New exhibit to be installed in historically existing location.



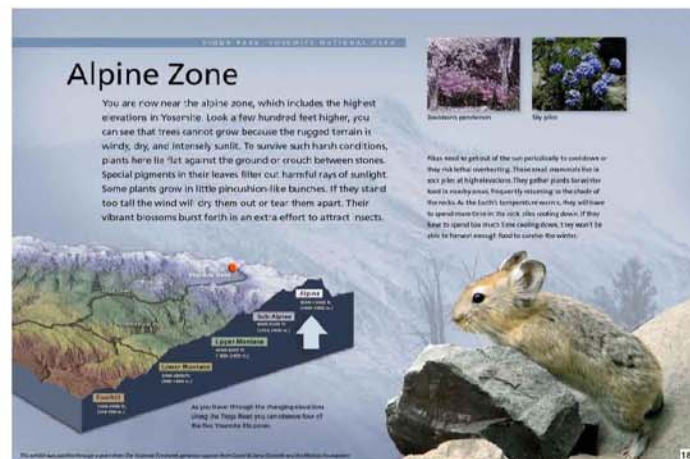
High Sierra Stories; Ensuring Survival; Alpine Zone - Tioga Pass Overflow parking, Tioga Road



- New exhibit to be placed on accessible route near existing handicapped parking.



- New exhibit to be placed on accessible route near existing handicapped parking.





National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Date: 07/21/2010

ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Yosemite National Park **Park District:** Parkwide

2. **Project Description:**

a. **Project Name:** 2010-010 Parkwide Wayside Exhibit Replacement and Installation

b. **Date:** July 21, 2010

c. **PEPC Project ID Number:** 29734

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

☐ No

☒ Yes, Source or reference:

☒ 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 Resource(s):**

None

5. **The proposed action will:**

☒ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

☒ No Replace historic features/elements in kind

☒ No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

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

☒ No 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:

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:** July 21, 2010 **Title:** Environmental Protection
Specialist Telephone: 209-379-1067

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:

☒ Archeologist
Name: Laura Kirn
Date: 07/14/2010
Comments:

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:

☒ Historical Architect
Name: Sueann Brown
Date: 06/23/2010
Comments:

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

[X] 106 Advisor
Name: Erin Davenport
Date: 06/29/2010
Comments:

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:

Doc Method: Standard 4-Step Process

[X] Historical Landscape Architect
Name: David Humphrey
Date: 06/23/2010
Comments:

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:

Doc Method: Park Specific Programmatic Agreement

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

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: 7/26/10

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 //Charles Cuvelier// (acting)

Date: 8/2/10

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