

## HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### Historic Buildings, Structures, and Cultural Landscapes

Comprehensive investigations of historic sites, structures, and cultural landscape resources have been undertaken for Yosemite Valley and El Portal. For other areas, information is taken from overview documents (e.g., Greene 1987) and specific inventories (e.g., the Wilderness Historic Resource Surveys). The types of resources potentially affected by the Merced River Plan include districts, buildings, structures, and landscapes listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP, or National Register) or designated as National Historic Landmarks. These resource types are described below.

- **Districts.** A district is a geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history (36 CFR 60.3).
- **Buildings.** A building is a structure created to shelter any form of human activity, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar structure. Building may refer to a historically related complex such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn (36 CFR 60.3).
- **Structures.** A structure is a work made up of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization. Constructed by man, it is often an engineering project large in scale (examples are historic trails, bridges, road systems, etc.) (36 CFR 60.3).
- **Cultural Landscapes.** Cultural landscapes are a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values. Cultural landscapes are the result of the long interaction between people and the land, and the influence of human beliefs and actions over time upon the natural landscape. Shaped through time by historical land use and management practices, as well as politics and property laws, levels of technology, and economic conditions, cultural landscapes provide a living record of an area's past, a visual chronicle of its history. The dynamic nature of modern human life contributes to the continual reshaping of cultural landscapes, making them a good source of information about specific times and places but at the same time rendering their long-term preservation a challenge (NPS *Management Policies 2006*).

**National Historic Landmarks.** National Historic Landmarks (NHL) are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Designation as an NHL affords a property additional protection as the federal government is tasked with avoiding or minimizing any potential adverse effects to the landmark, and monitoring the condition of the property (36 CFR 65)

**National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Criteria.** The criteria of the NRHP provide the basis under which a structure, site, building, district, or object can be considered significant for listing on the National Register. A potential resource needs to meet only one of the four criteria to achieve significance. The criteria include resources that (36 CFR 60.4):

- (A) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or
- (B) are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (C) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (D) have yielded or may likely yield information important in prehistory or history.

### *Affected Environment*

#### **Regulations and Policies**

*Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act 1966 (as amended).* Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (16 USC 470) directs federal agencies to take into account the effects of any undertaking on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has developed implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), which allow agencies to develop agreements for consideration of these historic properties.

*2008 Programmatic Agreement.* The servicewide 2008 programmatic agreement provides coordination between the NPS, ACHP, and National Conference of SHPOs for the section 106 compliance process. The NHPA, 36 CFR 800, and the 2008 programmatic agreement provide the NPS with a roadmap to plan for and carry out undertakings to minimize harm to cultural resources.

*Proposed Merced River Plan Programmatic Agreement.* As a part of the current Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan, the Park is proposing, via consultation with the ACHP, SHPO, and traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups, the development of a programmatic agreement regarding treatment of historic resources under the proposed management plan (Merced River Plan PA) (36 CFR 800.14). Based on the long term nature of plan implementation, a plan specific programmatic agreement will assist in guiding actions in order to avoid or minimize adverse effects to historic resources. This document, while not yet finalized, will provide guidance for the identification, evaluation, treatment, and mitigation of adverse effects for actions affecting historic resources, including potentially eligible historic resources, impacted by the Merced River Plan. A process for identifying and implementing appropriate mitigations measures will be developed through the programmatic agreement. In the event that the programmatic agreement is not completed prior to project initiation, actions will proceed under the guidance of the standard 36 CFR part 800 consultation process.

*Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.* The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties (Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties) are prepared under the authority of NHPA Sections 101(f) (g), and (h), and NHPA Section 110 and are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect irreplaceable cultural resources. The Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties are not intended to make decisions about which features of a historic building should be saved and those features that

may be changed; rather, when a treatment is selected, they provide guidance for consistency in the proposed work.

The four treatment approaches are preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Preservation places a high premium on the retention of all historic fabric through conservation, maintenance, and repair. Rehabilitation emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is intended to provide a compatible use for a property (when the use for which it was originally built is no longer practical or feasible) through repair, alterations or additions. Restoration focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in a property's history, while permitting the removal of materials from other periods. Reconstruction establishes limited opportunities to re-create a nonsurviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object in all new materials (Weeks 2001).

*NPS Management Policies 2006.* The *NPS Management Policies 2006* also provide direction regarding the management and preservation of historic properties. In accordance with these policies, the NPS is committed to protecting cultural resources against theft, fire, vandalism, overuse, deterioration, environmental impacts, and other threats without compromising the integrity of the resources. The *NPS Management Policies 2006* also provide guidance on procedures for protection and maintenance of historic properties under lease, among other instruction.

*Director's Order 28-Cultural Resources Management Guideline (1998).* Director's Order-28 guides the NPS to protect and manage cultural resources in its custody through effective research, planning, and stewardship and in accordance with the policies and principles contained in the *NPS Management Policies*. It also ensures that the NPS comply with the substantive and procedural requirements described in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. Additionally, the NPS would comply with the 2008 programmatic agreement with the ACHP on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of SHPOs.

*Yosemite National Park General Management Plan (1980).* The *Yosemite General Management Plan* calls for a reduction in traffic congestion, removal of nonessential buildings and facilities, restoration of large areas of the Valley to their natural conditions, and relocation of visitor and employee accommodations away from environmentally sensitive or dangerous areas.

*Cultural Resources Management Plan (1973).* The *Cultural Resources Management Plan* completed for the *Yosemite General Management Plan* was designed to protect the significant cultural resources of the park through compliance with all cultural resource legislative, executive, and regulatory requirements. The CRMP provides specific policies to guide cultural resources management at Yosemite, including consultation, survey and evaluation, preservation/restoration/reuse, and documentation.

*Concession Services Plan (1992).* The *Concession Services Plan*, which is a 1992 amendment to the *Yosemite General Management Plan*, guides the management of concession enterprises, such as lodging, food, retail, and other commercial services in Yosemite. This plan serves as the basis for contracts between the NPS and the park's primary concessioner.

## Scope of the Analysis

### *Historical Context*

Arguably, the earliest record of non-indigenous presence in Yosemite was Joseph Rutherford Walker's 1833 exploratory party that crossed the Sierra Nevada from east to west, along the divide between the Tuolumne River and Merced River drainages. Walker's party may have been the first non-Indians to see Yosemite Valley. Prior to the 1850s, the U. S. military, which had increased its presence in the Central Valley, responded to raids by local American Indian tribes and conducted the 1851 relocation of the Ahwahneechees, led by Chief Tenaya, to the Fresno River Reservation (Greene 1987). The California Gold Rush, the single largest migration in human history, had profound impacts on the land, people and resources in the Sierra Nevada foothills. This event triggered massive disruption of native cultures and lifeways, brought thousands of people to the lands immediately surrounding Yosemite, and inspired the violent conflicts that lead to these military campaigns. In response to the increased military presence, some American Indians relocated, though many, including Chief Tenaya, left the camp.

During the 1850s and 1860s, tourism drove numbers of visitors to Yosemite Valley. Magazines depicting the scenery of the Valley drew the attention of the nation, and in 1855 James M. Hutchings organized the first tourist excursion to the Valley. Within two years of this trip, entrepreneurs constructed hotels to capitalize on what would become a thriving tourist trade. The community of Wawona, for example, was founded near the site of the log cabin built by Galen Clark in 1857. Clark, originally from New Hampshire, had moved to California during the Gold Rush, and moved to the Valley in 1856 as a homesteader. Clark established a 160-acre homestead and 12-foot-by-16-foot cabin, which was called "Clark's Station" or "Clark's Crossing" (Greene 1987).

Homestead claims were filed, orchards were planted, and Yosemite Valley became a residential base for many families during the 1850s and 1860s. Hutchings became a permanent resident of the Valley in 1864 and constructed several structures, including a sawmill on Yosemite Creek. By 1870, the establishment of visitor hotels in the Valley had created a need for local fresh produce and livestock. James Lamon, the Valley's first non-indigenous homesteader, became one of the largest producers of commercial agricultural products in the Valley (Greene 1987).

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln and the U.S. Congress set aside the Big Tree Grove (Mariposa Grove) and Yosemite Valley as a public park to preserve the monumental scenic qualities of the area. The act clearly stated that the Valley and Mariposa Grove were to be managed by the governor of California and his eight appointed commissioners, with Frederick Law Olmsted appointed as chairman by the governor and elected by the commission (Greene 1987).

Due to the early conservation movement led by people such as John Muir and Robert Underwood Johnson, Congress passed an act establishing Yosemite National Park in 1890. This act brought protection to the lands and resources within the watersheds of the Tuolumne River and Merced River systems. The park was managed by U.S. Cavalry troops sent from the Presidio in San Francisco. Yosemite was the responsibility of the Department of the Interior (DOI), and army units answered to both DOI and Army. By 1906, the State of California had relinquished their rights of control over the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove grant lands, ceding them to the U.S. government (Greene 1987).

Between 1906 and 1914, Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were administered by the U.S. Army, which established camp at the site of an American Indian village. Major H.C. Benson, acting superintendent from 1905 until 1908 under the Department of the Army, stated in his 1907 annual report that, “[s]ome definite general plan should be devised for the beautifying of the valley and making it the most beautiful park in the world. All bridges and buildings constructed in the future should conform to a definite plan, suited to existing conditions. All roads should be laid out according to a plan fully worked out by a competent landscape gardener, nothing should be done in the way of expending money which does not tend to carry out these ideas. All small buildings, practically shacks, should be replaced by stone buildings, and all bridges, when replaced, should be either of stone or concrete.” Many bridges and roads were, in fact, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers between 1905 and 1915 (Carr 1998). Bridges such as the Bridalveil Falls bridges in 1913 set the precedent for later Rustic design for bridges established in the Yosemite Bridge Historic District.

In 1916 Congress created the National Park Service with a mandate to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and provide opportunities for the enjoyment of future generations. The advent of automobile culture in the late 1910s and early 1920s changed the management plan for the park. As early as 1919, nearly 75% of visitors to Yosemite entered as auto tourists in their own cars. The demographic shift indicated that the era of the national park as a minimally funded, semiprivate resort had seen its day. After the All-Year Highway (Highway 140) to Yosemite opened in 1926, the annual number of visitors jumped to nearly half a million, up from about 40,000 just 10 years prior. Auto tourists, not reliant on concessioners, were part of a much larger and broader public that required additional facilities at a scale previously absent from the park (NPS 2006d). Rustic-style architecture was a type of design and style of construction used throughout the national parks beginning with the Yosemite Administration Building in 1924, and remains in use through the present. The style expressed the philosophy that buildings should be in harmony with the landscape and in harmony with each other. Oversized stone and logs were used in construction to ensure that the mass of the building appeared to fit within the setting. For example, The Ahwahnee hotel, which opened in 1927, is a six-story steel-framed building, sheathed in textured concrete and stone veneer to simulate rough wood siding and massive stone piers. The Ahwahnee culminated epitomized the tradition of massive, centralized national park lodges built by concessioners to cater to wealthy tourists (NPS 2006d). Yosemite Village Historic District contains a collection of rustic architecture dating from the 1918 through the 1930s.

The primary trails originating in the valley are the Mist Trail, Four Mile Trail, Yosemite Falls Trail, Pohono Trail, and the Valley Loop Trail. The Valley Loop Trail dates from the 1920s and was originally built as a bridle trail, generally aligned along existing circulation routes. Thirteen additional miles were added to the Valley Loop Trail in 1928, requiring the construction of 14 bridges. Today, the Valley Loop Trail includes the entire remaining bridle trail system in the valley and it is approximately 21 miles long.

The Great Depression resulted in a decrease of tourists visiting the Valley, but the initiation of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal in the spring of 1933 resulted in an unprecedented era of park development and park system expansion. The Public Works Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were responsible for completing a tremendous amount of work in the 1930s. Their extensive range of projects in the Valley included construction of roads, trails, bridges, fire roads, fire buildings, fire lanes, fire trails, comfort stations, campgrounds, and a rock diversion channel at Yosemite Creek (Greene 1987).

Visitation to the Valley further decreased during World War II but increased to unprecedented levels as soon as the war ended. In 1954, over a million park visitors were recorded. However, in 1955, Yosemite experienced the worst flooding ever recorded in the Valley. Facilities that had already been damaged in the floods of 1950 were inundated, along with additional roads, trails, bridges, and other facilities. In 1956, Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth announced Mission 66 as a major new construction campaign. Intended to improve or replace aging and inadequate national park facilities, Mission 66 was implemented to meet the demand for services created by postwar levels of visitation. This increased funding and visitation, as well as flood damage repair, came together and resulted in major changes to Yosemite Valley. Major Yosemite projects in the Mission 66 program included the Tioga Road middle segment and the El Portal Administrative area housing. The Yosemite Valley visitor center was completed in 1968. In 1970, much of the Valley's road network was made into a one-way loop. The addition of parking lots along with the new concession and visitor use buildings during the Mission 66 period make the public plaza area of the Village one of the most changed areas since 1942 (NPS 2006d).

### *Properties Analyzed for this Plan*

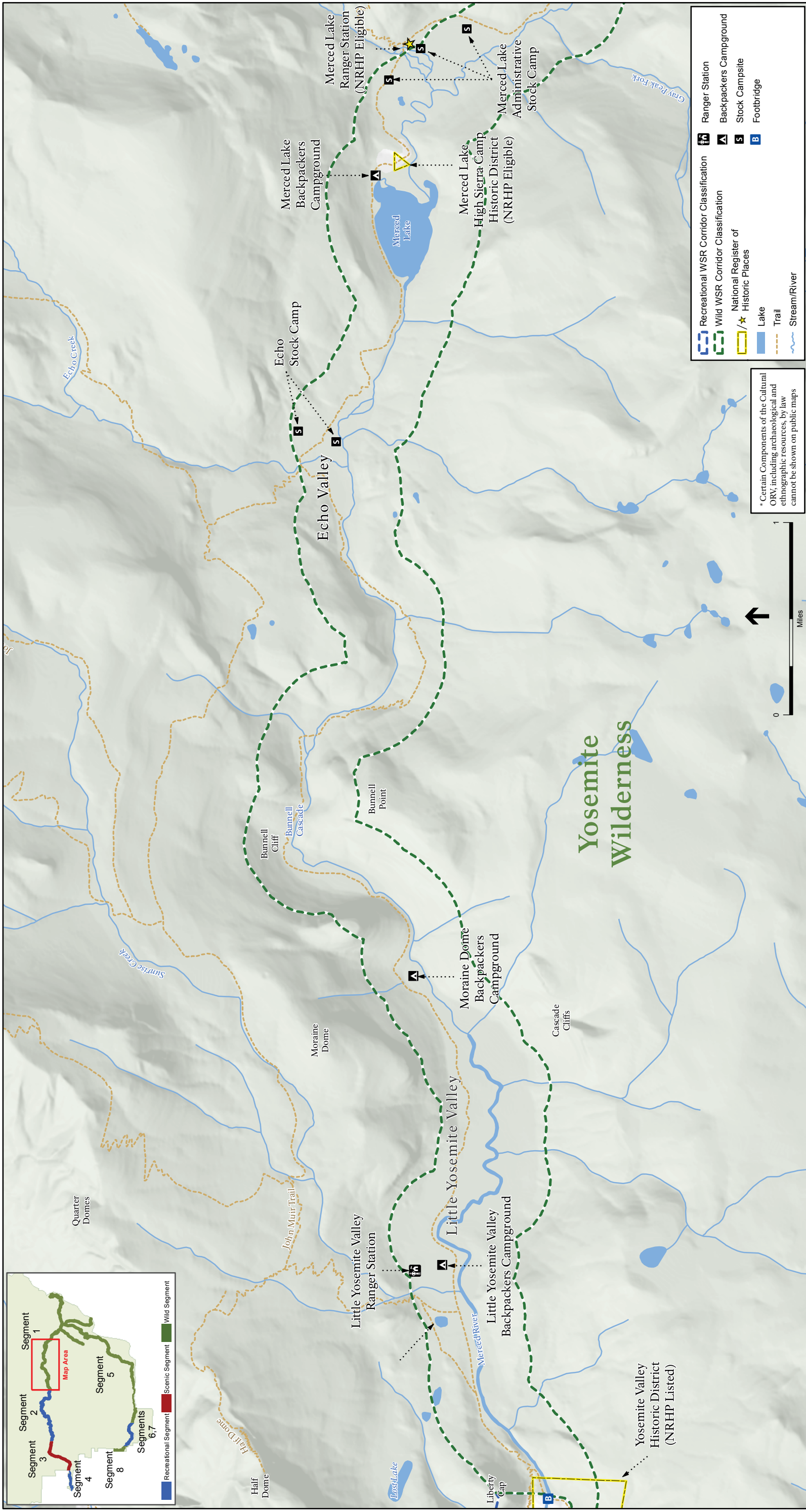
Historic properties that could potentially be affected by the Merced River Plan include various National Register-listed historic districts, landscapes, individual historic buildings, structures, trails, and other features in each of the river segments that are eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. It should be noted that the majority of post-WWII buildings have not been assessed for eligibility and that prior to removal or alteration of these resources, assessments as to their eligibility for listing on the National Register would be completed in order to carry out actions with potential impact to these areas and appropriate mitigations consistent with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement and consistent with Section 110 of the NHPA. Tables 9-207 through 9-210 provide detail regarding the historic properties within the APE.

### *Historic Period Resources*

**Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Falls – Historic Properties.** Known historic resources within Segment 1 consist of the eligible Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District and the eligible Merced Lake Ranger Station. **Table 9-207** and **figure 9-47** describe these resources.

**Segment 2: Yosemite Valley – Historic Properties.** Known historic resources within the APE associated with Segment 2 include four NRHP- listed districts (Camp Curry Historic District, Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Village Historic District), including their associated contributing historic buildings and structures; numerous structures that have been determined to be eligible for listing on the NRHP as well as those that are individually listed; and three National Historic Landmarks (The Ahwahnee, Rangers' Club, and the LeConte Memorial Lodge); In addition, eight granite-faced, concrete arched, two-lane vehicle bridges were constructed along the Valley Loop Road between 1922 and 1933. Six of the bridges (Ahwahnee, Clark's, Pohono, Sugar Pine, Happy Isles, and Stoneman) cross the Merced River, while two others (Yosemite Creek and Tenaya Creek) cross creeks. Each bridge is listed in the NRHP as contributing features to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, as well as a separate Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. **Table 9-208** describes these resources.





**Figure 9-47**  
**Segment 1 - Little Yosemite Valley and**  
**Merced Lake High Sierra Camp**  
**Historic Properties**

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**TABLE 9-207: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENT 1**

National Register Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	District	Eligible	Local	The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is considered significant in recreation and education as one of seven high country camps whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the NPS.	The NRHP boundary includes all the tents, cooking structures, restrooms and bathhouses, and other miscellaneous structures associated with the High Sierra Camp facilities and the immediate environment.
Merced Lake Ranger Station	Building	Eligible	Local	The Merced Lake snow survey shelter/patrol cabin is considered significant in conservation.	building

SOURCE: NPS 2012h  
Abbreviations: N/A = not applicable; NPS = National Park Service; NRHP = National Register of Historic Places

Many historic sites and structures within the Valley have been singled out for their significance and are either National Historic Landmarks or are listed in or have been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. National Register-listed historic properties in Yosemite were identified in a 2012 consultation letter with SHPO. These resources are described in greater detail in tables 9-207 through 9-210 and figure 9-48.

The geophysical characteristics of Yosemite Valley have shaped patterns of human use since the earliest days of American Indian settlement. As a result, the Valley’s cultural landscape is significant for its role in the exploration and settlement of the west, as well as for its architecture, art, landscape architecture, recreation, and conservation. The historical importance of the Valley landscape derives from the fact that countless generations of local tribal groups and, later, millions of park visitors have infused the Valley’s natural features with great cultural significance.

**Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal – Historic Properties.** Known historic resources within Segments 3 and 4 include the Merced River Travel Corridor, the Yosemite Hydroelectric Power Plant (the Cascades Powerhouse), the Old Coulterville Forestry Department Road and Trail, and designated El Portal Historic Structures. **Table 9-209** describes these resources and **figures 9-49 and 9-50**.

The primary element of the Merced Canyon Travel Corridor is El Portal Road, which was originally constructed as a wagon road in 1905 and was substantially reconstructed in 1925. The road includes hand-laid stone parapet guardwalls and drainage catchment structures. Following consultation with the SHPO and the ACHP, many of these features were removed as part of the El Portal Road Reconstruction Project that was a direct consequence of damage caused by a catastrophic flood in 1997. Other properties within the river corridor include rock quarries, historic trash scatters, sections of pre-1925 roadbed, historic work campsites, and the Arch Rock Entrance Station complex (eligible for the NRHP as an individual property), which consists of a ranger residence/office, entrance kiosk, parking lot, and restroom building (Volpe 1997).

**TABLE 9-208: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENT 2**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties (Listing Number)	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
The Ahwahnee Hotel (1977000149)	Building	Listed	National	The Ahwahnee, because of its rustic architectural design and unaltered condition, is among the most significant park hotels in the United States. The significance of the hotel lies in the preservation of the exterior of the building and its setting, and in the preservation of the interior, with its original decorative features and furnishings.	The 35-acre site, which includes a number of small structures and landscape features, eight guest cottages, an employee dormitory, two tennis courts, a pond, and two parking lots.
Camp 4(Sunnyside Campground) (2003000056)	Site	Listed	National	Camp 4 has integrity and is listed in the NRHP for its significant association with the growth and development of rock climbing in the Yosemite Valley after World War II.	Entire area, including natural features (boulders, cliffs, vegetation), is considered a contributing resource.
Camp Curry Historic District (1979000315)	District	Listed	Local	This historic district is illustrative of the foundation and early development of the Curry family concession enterprise and their unique contribution to a character of accommodation still available in Yosemite.	Bungalettes, bungalow duplexes and four-plex cabins, Foster Curry Bungalow, Cabin 101 (Nob Hill Cabin), comfort stations, and Terrace Clubhouse (Women’s Club).
Glacier Point Road Historic District	District	Eligible	Local	Glacier Point Road exemplifies the naturalistic landscape design aesthetic of the NPS in the 1930s and represents the initial burst of development of automobile roads in the national parks.	Includes 140 contributing features.
Glacier Point Trailside Museum (1978000375)	Building	Listed	Local	This museum, the first permanent teaching instrument of its kind in the NPS, is an integral component of the old Yosemite Museum.	building
LeConte Memorial Lodge (197700148: NHL)	Structure	Listed	National, Regional, local	Originally constructed in 1903, and moved and rebuilt in 1919, the lodge was the principal foothold of the influential Sierra Club in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is a transitional building in 20th century architecture, with strong European roots in its Tudor Revival design, combined with an interesting use of building materials found in the work of architects of the Bay Area tradition. An outstanding example of the theory that the materials and site should determine the design of the building.	building
New Big Oak Flat Road	Structure	Eligible	Local	The new Big Oak Flat road tunnels, bridges, and retaining walls are considered significant in transportation as well as landscape architecture and architecture.	Cascade Creek Bridge, Tamarack Creek Bridge, Wildcat Creek Bridge, and three tunnels.

**TABLE 9-208: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENT 2 (CONTINUED)**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Old Big Oak Flat Road	Structure	Eligible	Local	The Big Oak Flat Road is significant as one of the earliest transportation routes into Yosemite Valley. It served horse and wagon traffic and it eventually opened the Yosemite Valley to automobiles.	structure
Rangers' Club (1987001414: NHL)	Building	Listed	National, regional	The Rangers' Club in Yosemite Valley is representative of NPS's first director, Stephen T. Mather's commitment to an architectural aesthetic appropriate for the park lands that he was charged to manage. The Rangers' Club is also of regional historical significance in the category of conservation through its connection with the first director of the NPS and through its integrity of function as the residence for unmarried rangers.	building
Substation and Substation Control House No. 1	Building	Eligible	Local	The Substation and Substation Control House #1 is the oldest and only surviving Rustic-style substation control house and substation complex in Yosemite Valley.	building
Wawona Tunnel	Structure	Eligible	National	The Wawona tunnel is considered significant in the fields of transportation, architecture, and landscape architecture. It was built as part of the rerouting of the old Wawona Road between Yosemite Valley and Grouse Creek, where engineers determined that a tunnel was necessary to attain a satisfactory grade. Construction of a tunnel would also be cheaper and require less excavation. Its construction was an innovation in highway design within the National Park System, following the precedent set by the Zion Park highway tunnel. Upon completion, it was the longest vehicle tunnel in the western United States.	Wawona tunnel and the low stone retaining walls around the parking area.
Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160)	District	Listed	National	These Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations. The use of native granite in the form of rough boulders reflects the tenets of the Rustic style.	Yosemite Creek Bridge, Ahwahnee Bridge, Clark's Bridge, Pohono Bridge, Sugar Pine Bridge, Tenaya Creek Bridge, Happy Isles Bridge, Stoneman Bridge.
Yosemite Valley Chapel (1973000256)	Building	Listed	Regional	This chapel, now the oldest building in Yosemite, was erected in 1879 as a chapel and has been used as such since then. It is still used for church services on Sundays. The simple architectural design of the structure represents a particularly fine example of the early chapels constructed in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is well preserved.	building

**TABLE 9-208: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENT 2 (CONTINUED)**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	District	Listed	National	The Valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Since 1864, Yosemite has been an archetype for the preservation of scenic places through their development as public parks.	District consists of 929 buildings and sites, including Yosemite Valley Chapel, LeConte Memorial Lodge, El Capitan Bridge, Ansel Adams Residence, Yosemite Pioneer Cemetery, and The Ahwahnee, located within specific developed areas including the Yosemite Village, Camp Curry, and The Ahwahnee. Additionally, Yosemite Valley Historic District includes resources such as natural systems/features, spatial organization, veg. circulation, land use, vistas, etc. all contribute to the significance of the district
Yosemite Village Historic District (1978000354)	District	Listed	National	This historic district, through both sites and structures, represents almost the entire range of Yosemite history since 1855, including early homesteading, John Muir's early residence in the park, the development of the national park, the U.S. Army's role in park administration, and the evolution of early NPS administration and interpretation of the resources of Yosemite.	District consists of 44 buildings and sites, including residences, Ansel Adams studio, museum, post office, and park administration building.
<b>National Historic Landmarks</b>					
The Ahwahnee Hotel	Building	Listed	National	The Ahwahnee, because of its Rustic architectural design and unaltered condition, is among the most significant park hotels in the country. The significance of the hotel lies in the preservation of the exterior of the building and its setting, and in the preservation of the interior, with its original decorative features and furnishings.	Included within the boundaries of the nomination are the meadow directly south of the hotel, the stone gatehouse marking the entrance to the property, the parking lots, and the small pond and walkways at the building's entrance, directly north of the porte-cochere.
LeConte Memorial Lodge	Building	Listed	Regional, local	Originally constructed in 1903, and moved and rebuilt in 1919, this lodge was the principal foothold of the influential Sierra Club in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is a transitional building in 20th century architecture, with strong European roots in its Tudor Revival design combined, with an interesting use of building materials found in the work of architects of the Bay Area tradition. An outstanding example of the theory that the materials and site should determine the design of the building.	building

**TABLE 9-208: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENT 2 (CONTINUED)**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
<b>National Historic Landmarks (cont.)</b>					
Rangers' Club	Building	Listed	National, regional	The Rangers' Club in Yosemite Valley was donated to the NPS by its first director, Stephen T. Mather. The building is representative of his commitment to an architectural aesthetic appropriate for the park lands that he was charged to manage.	building
SOURCE: NPS 2012h Abbreviations: N/A = not applicable; NHL = National Historic Landmark; NPS = National Park Service					

**TABLE 9-209: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Bagby Stationhouse (1979000316)	Building	Listed	Local	Along with the uniquely designed twin water tanks, the stationhouse is illustrative of an important era in Yosemite's history.	This 1-acre historic district includes the Bagby stationhouse, water tanks, and turntable
El Portal Hotel	Building	Eligible	Local	This building qualifies for listing because of its association with the development and expansion of the tourist industry at El Portal. It also qualifies for listing because it embodies architectural characteristics associated with a 1930s-era commercial buildings construction type.	Building
El Portal Historic Structures	District	Eligible	Local	The Village Center and Old El Portal areas appear to qualify for listing in the NRHP as historic districts under Criterion A because they are associated with the development and expansion of the railroad, mining, timber, and tourist industries at El Portal, as well as the town's socioeconomic development and expansion.	Murchison House, Yosemite Research Center Office, three National Lead Company residences, Village Center Store, three Yosemite Valley Railroad residences, school, El Portal Market, El Portal Hotel
El Portal Murchison House	Building	Eligible	Local	This building qualifies for listing because of its association with the significant National Lead Company barium mining operations at El Portal; it embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics associated with mining-related residential and management structures during the late 1920s-early 1930s; and it is associated with Earl H. Murchison, National Lead Company superintendent at El Portal.	Building
El Portal Old Schoolhouse	Building	Listed	Local	The El Portal Old Schoolhouse is significant as an educational institution that serves as an example of the socioeconomic development of the town of El Portal. Architectural characteristics and building materials associate the Old Schoolhouse with the local El Portal vernacular style during the 1920s and 1930s.	Building
Hetch Hetchy Railroad Engine No. 6 (1978000360)	Structure	Listed	Local, Regional	Hetch Hetchy Railroad Engine No. 6 is the last and heaviest locomotive, and the only one of Shay design, purchased by the Hetch Hetchy Railroad. It contributed in an important way to the history of a railroad as part of a regionally significant engineering project, and later as part of a locally significant lumber industry logging railroad.	structure

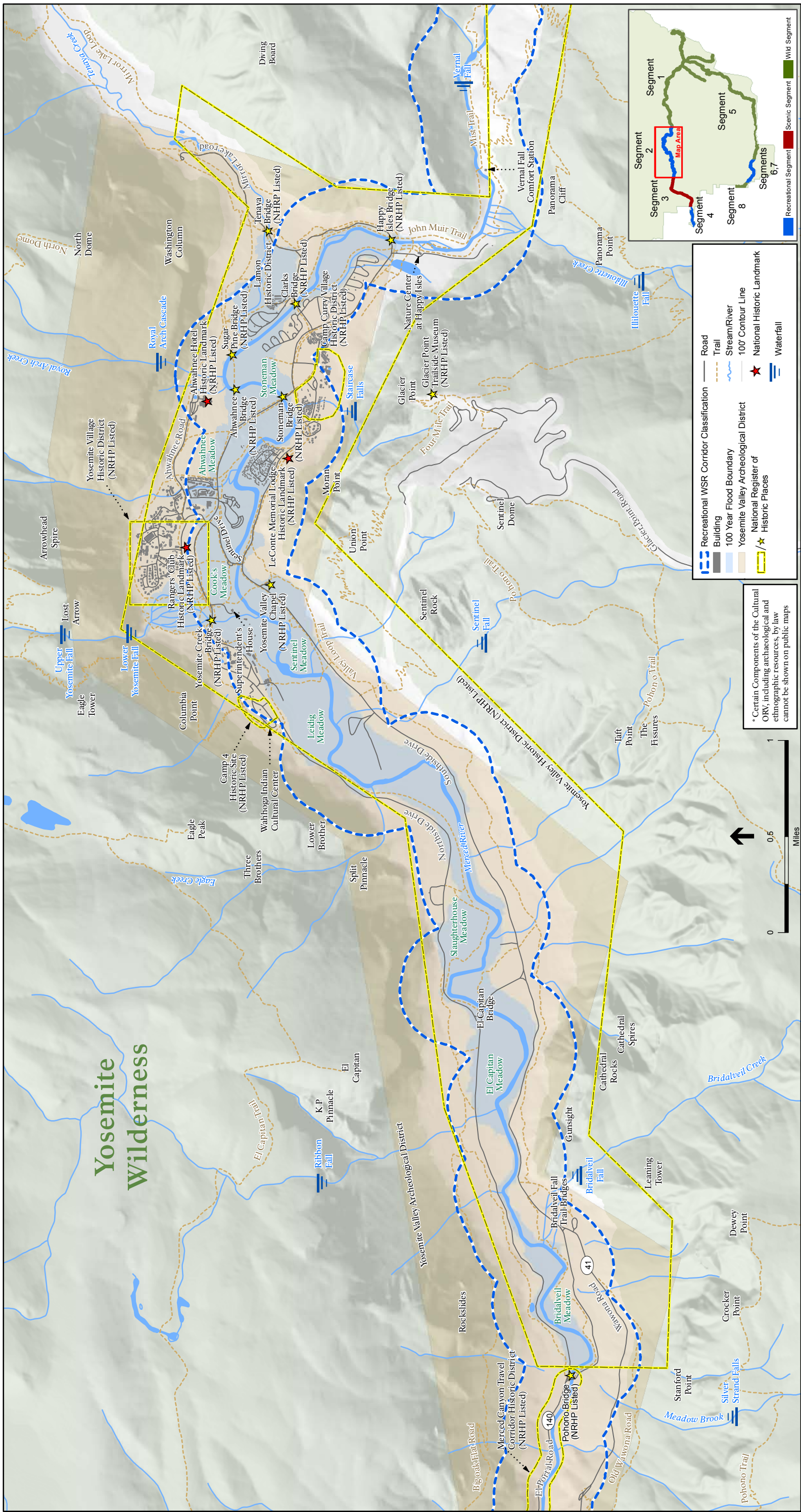
**TABLE 9-209: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 (CONTINUED)**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
McCauley and Meyer Barn (1978000353)	Building	Listed	Local	This barn is among the last remaining barns in Yosemite that possess architectural significance and integrity. They also represent some local interest in agriculture through association with pioneering ranches once located within the park boundaries.	Building
Merced Canyon Travel Corridor Historic District	District	Eligible	National, state	This historic district is a unique multiple resource historical property eligible for listing on the NRHP. The travel route from El Portal to Yosemite Valley has been used for at least the past 2,000 years, spanning a myriad of cultural needs satisfied by the natural landscape and its resources.	El Portal Road, historic period sites (trash scatters, Arch Rock Entrance Station, historic road beds, Coulterville Road Blacksmith Shop, aligned rock structure, historic camp area, Cascade Falls Trail, possible privy, CCC camp, Pohono pit, rock quarry), landscape, and prehistoric/historic native American sites.
National Lead Company	Building	Eligible	Local	The district qualifies for listing because of its association with the significant National Lead Company barium mining operations at El Portal; it embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics associated with mining-related residential and management structures during the late 1920s-early 1930s.	Three residences, including Murchison House.
National Lead Company Residence Buildings Nos. 703 704, and 705	Building	Eligible	Local	These buildings qualify for listing because of their association with the significant National Lead Company barium mining operations at El Portal, embodying the distinctive architectural characteristics associated with mining-related residential and management structures during the late 1920s-early 1930s.	Building
Old Coulterville Road and Trail	Structure	Eligible	Local	The Coulterville Road is the first stagecoach road to have reached the floor of Yosemite Valley and is of local significance in transportation and engineering.	structure
Track Bus No. 19 (1978000363)	Object	Listed	Local	Track Bus No. 19 is of local historical significance in the category of transportation. It is one of the few survivors of the gasoline-powered rigs which ran on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad.	object



**TABLE 9-209: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 (CONTINUED)**

National Register-Listed or Eligible Properties	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Yosemite Hydroelectric Power Plant	Structure	Eligible	State	The Yosemite hydroelectric power plant is a good example of its type and possesses a high level of integrity. Though once commonplace, the type of system used by the power plant is becoming rare, with intact systems even more rare. There are no other known penstock-fed systems in California with their original Pelton wheels (a particular type of turbine), generators, switch boards, and design intact.	Diversion dam, the intake, the screens and screenhouse, the penstock, the surge tank, the powerhouse and equipment, the 11-kilovolt distribution line into the Valley.
Yosemite Valley Railroad Caboose No. 15 (1978000352)	Object	Listed	Local	Yosemite Valley Railroad caboose No. 15 is an object of local historical significance as one of the last surviving cabooses of the historic Yosemite Valley Railroad.	object
Yosemite Valley Railroad Residences	Structures	Eligible	Local	These buildings qualify for listing because of their association with the development of the railroad industry at El Portal, and because they exhibit the architectural characteristics associated with an early 20th-century railroad employee residential building type.	building
Abbreviations: No. = number; NPS = National Park Service; NRHP = National Register of Historic Places SOURCE: NPS 2012h					

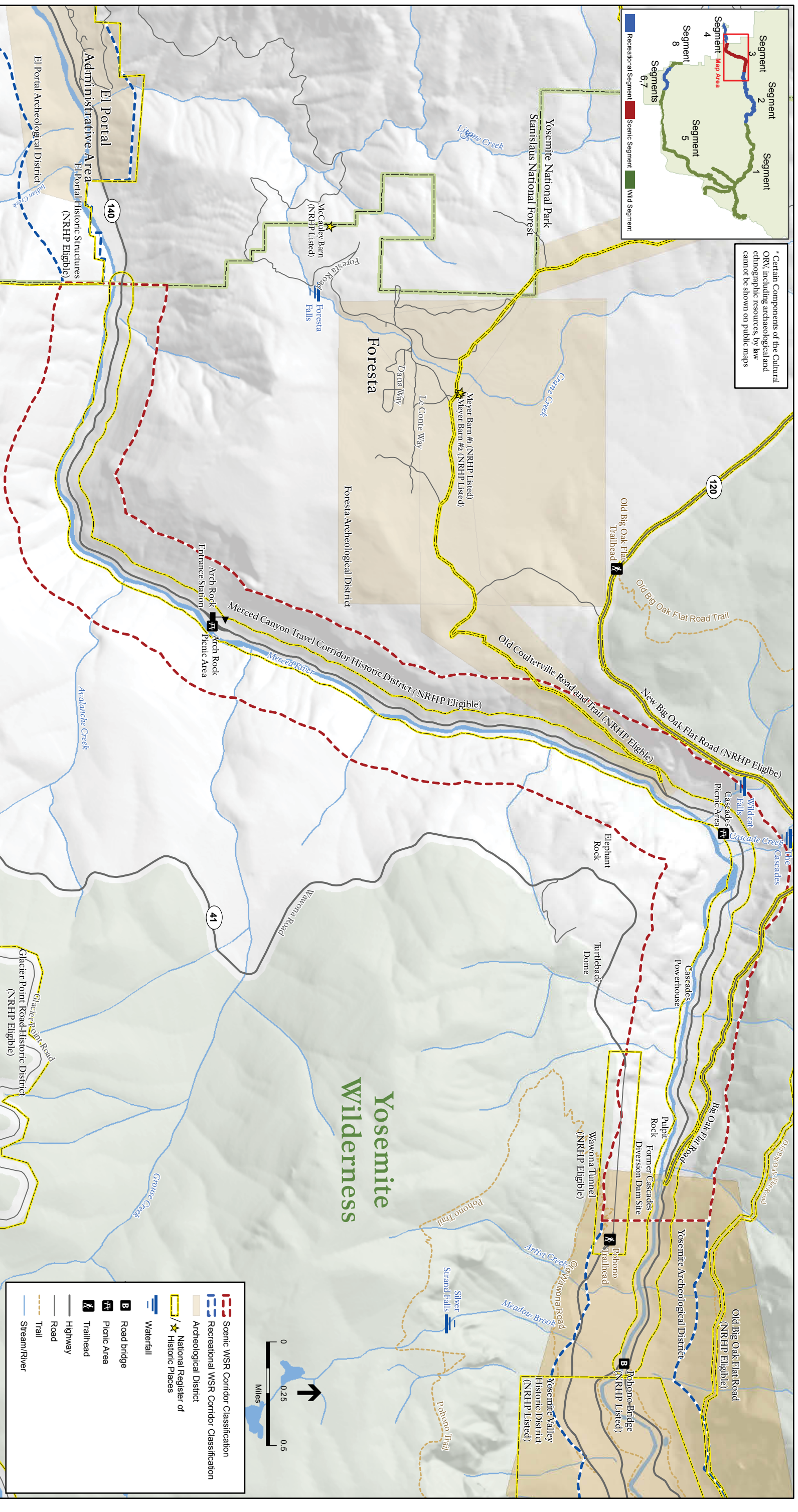


SOURCE: NPS, 1997, 2011

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**Figure 9-48**  
Segment 2 - Yosemite Valley  
Historic Properties





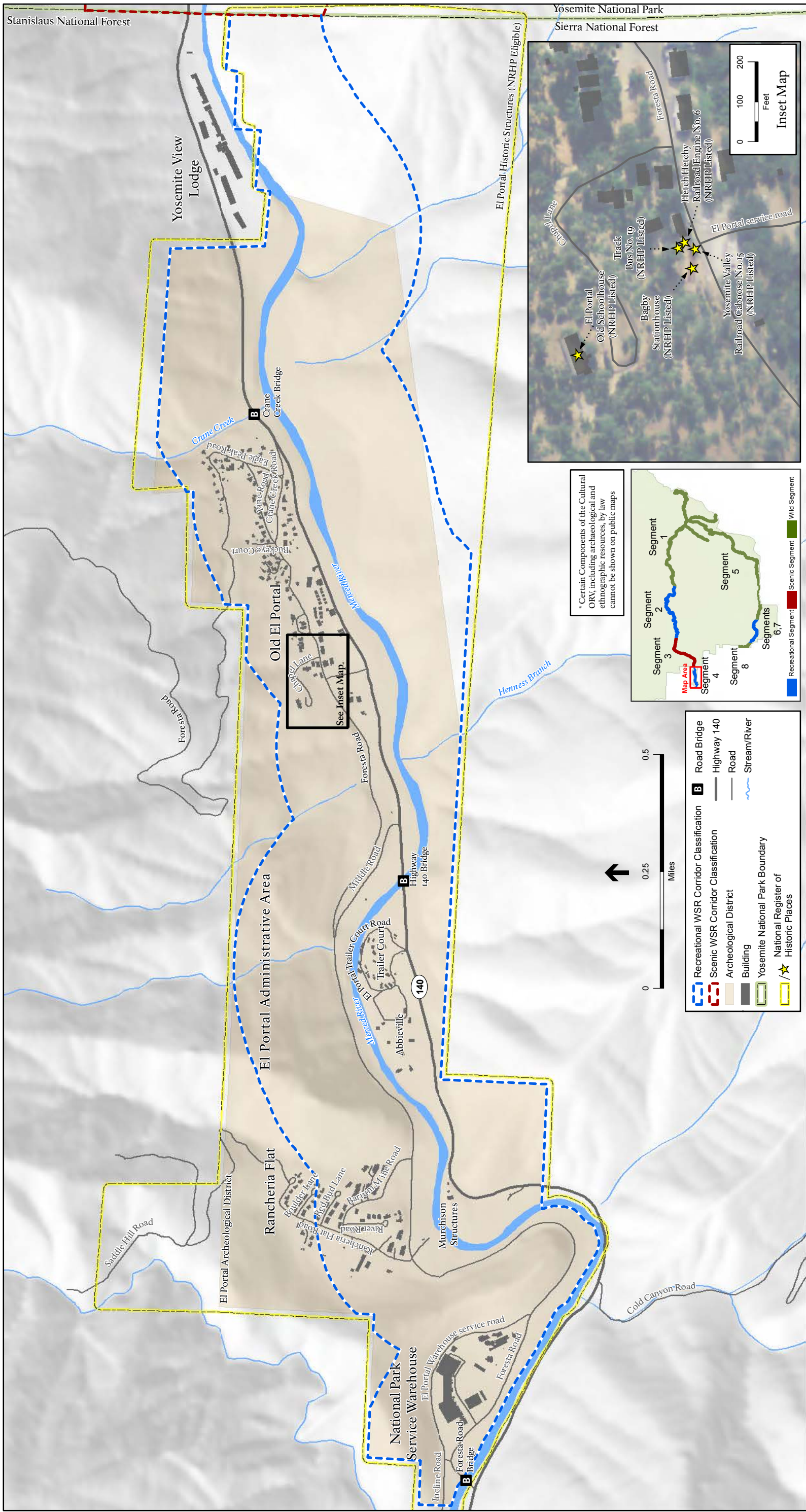
SOURCE: NPS, 1997, 2011

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**Figure 9-49**

**Segment 3 - Merced Gorge  
Historic Properties**





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Properties in El Portal that are either listed in or are eligible for listing in the NRHP include the Bagby stationhouse (now used as the Yosemite Conservancy headquarters); Yosemite Valley Railroad cabooses number 15; El Portal Murchison House; three National Lead Company residences; El Portal Old Schoolhouse; the El Portal Hotel (now used as the NatureBridge headquarters), and two Yosemite Valley Railroad residences, mostly in the Village Center of Old El Portal. Some of these structures are privately owned but located on federal land.

**Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River Wawona – Historic Properties.** Known historic resources within Segments 5, 6, 7, or 8 include the Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio District NHL Wawona, Wawona Covered Bridge, Hodgdon Homestead Cabin, Chris Jorgensen Studio, Acting Superintendent’s Headquarters, and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. **Table 9-210 and figure 9-51** describe these resources.

The most significant of the historic structures in Wawona is the Victorian-style Wawona Hotel complex. The hotel complex includes seven structures and is significant for its architectural features as well as for its historical associations with early California commerce and the landscape painter Thomas Hill. The complex includes the Pavilion (former Hill’s Studio), Little White (Manager’s Cottage), Little Brown (Moore Cottage), Long White (Clark Cottage), Long Brown (Washburn Cottage), the Wawona Hotel, and the annex. The complex was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 28, 1987. The Wawona Golf Course, in operation since 1918, is being evaluated as a contributing resource under the current Cultural Landscape Inventory being completed by the NPS Pacific West Regional Office staff.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center, which was determined eligible for listing as a historic district by the California SHPO in 2011, contains many structures relocated from other areas of the park to its current location on the bank of the South Fork Merced River. This site consists of 26 contributing features, including Wawona Grey Barn/Washburn Barn; Hodgdon homestead/cabin, Yosemite Transportation Company office/Wells Fargo office, Wells Fargo utility building, Acting Superintendent’s Headquarters/Army cabin, Army tack room, Crane Flat ranger cabin/ranger patrol cabin, jail/powder house/morgue, Chris Jorgenson Studio/artist cabin, wagon shelter/wagon shed, Wawona Covered Bridge, Wawona stables, Chinese laundry/laundry/carriage shop; Pioneer Yosemite History Center signs (two); historic circulation system; flagpoles (two); hitching posts (two); retaining walls; stone perimeters; privy; water trough; and split rail perimeter fences (NPS 2011s).

Four of the buildings are also listed as individual resources in the National Register, including the Hodgdon homestead/cabin, Acting Superintendent’s Headquarters/Army cabin, Chris Jorgenson Studio/artist cabin, and Wawona Covered Bridge.

Several CCC structures (e.g., the NPS maintenance complex and ranger office) and three residences constructed immediately after the Wawona land purchase in 1932 still exist in this area and are being assessed for eligibility through a cultural landscape inventory being completed by the NPS Pacific West Regional Office for the Wawona Valley.

**TABLE 9-210: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7, AND 8**

National Register- Listed or Eligible Properties (Listing Number)	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Acting Superintendent's Headquarters (1978000362)	Building	Listed	Local	This building is the sole remaining structure associated with the military tenure in Wawona.	Building
Chris Jorgenson Studio (1979000280)	Building	Listed	Local	Yosemite has been a lodestone for artists since 1856 when lithographer Thomas Ayres accompanied the first tourist party to the Valley. One of the park's most prolific scenic interpreters was the noted California painter Chris Jorgenson, who maintained a seasonal residence and studio in the Valley for 20 years. This studio, now an integral part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, is of local significance in art.	Building
Hodgdon Homestead Cabin (1978000356)	Structure	Listed	Local	The Hodgdon homestead cabin possesses local architectural significance as the finest example of a pioneer homestead in Yosemite.	Building
Pioneer Yosemite History Center	District	Eligible	Local	The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is significant under the NRHP criterion A for its association with the development of tourism and outdoor recreation during the Mission 66 period.	Contributing features include Wawona grey barn/Washburn barn; Hodgdon homestead/cabin; Yosemite Transportation Company office/Wells Fargo office; Wells Fargo utility building; Acting Superintendent's Headquarters/Army cabin; Army tack room; Crane Flat ranger cabin/ranger patrol cabin; jail/powder house/morgue; Chris Jorgenson studio/artist cabin; Wagon shelter/wagon shed; Wawona Covered Bridge; Wawona stables; Chinese laundry/laundry/carriage shop; Pioneer Yosemite History Center signs (2); historic circulation system; flagpoles (2); hitching posts (2); retaining walls; stone perimeter; privy; water trough; and split rail perimeter fences.
Wawona Covered Bridge (2006001261)	Structure	Listed	State	The Wawona Covered Bridge is significant at the state level under NRHP criteria A, B, and C for its association within the contexts of transportation, entertainment, and recreation; its association with Galen Clark; and as a unique example of a covered bridge within both California and the western region of the NPS.	structure



**TABLE 9-210: KNOWN HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 (CONTINUED)**

National Register-Listed or Eligible Properties (Listing Number)	Property Type	NR Status	Level of Significance	Significance Summary	Contributing Resources
Wawona Hotel and Pavilion (1975000223; NHL)	District	Listed	National	Wawona's architectural importance to American architecture is the largest existing Victorian-style hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity.	The Clark Cottage, the Wawona Hotel building, the Little White Cottage, the Moore Cottage, the Washburn Cottage, the Pavilion (former Hill's studio), and the Annex.
Yosemite Transportation Company Office (1978000355)	Building	Listed	Local	The Yosemite Transportation Company office (Wells Fargo office) is of local significance in the fields of architecture and transportation, based on the design of the structure and on its use for many years as a transportation facility for visitors to Yosemite Valley.	Building
<b>National Historic Landmarks</b>					
Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio (1975000223)	District	Listed	National	Wawona's architectural importance to American architecture is as the largest existing Victorian-style hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity.	Clark Cottage, the Wawona Hotel Building, the Little White Cottage, the Moore Cottage, the Washburn Cottage, and the Annex.
Abbreviations: N/A = not applicable; NHL = National Historic Landmark SOURCE: NPS 2012h					

### *Environmental Consequences Methodology*

Historic districts, buildings, structures, and landscapes are considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP when the properties have significance and retain integrity associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A); when they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B); when they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction (Criterion C); or when they have contributed or have the potential to contribute information about the past (Criterion D). An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Adverse effects include those detailed in CFR 800.5 (a)(2)(i-vii), which include physical destruction or damage, alterations inconsistent with the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR part 68), relocation of the property, change in character of use, or neglect resulting in deterioration.

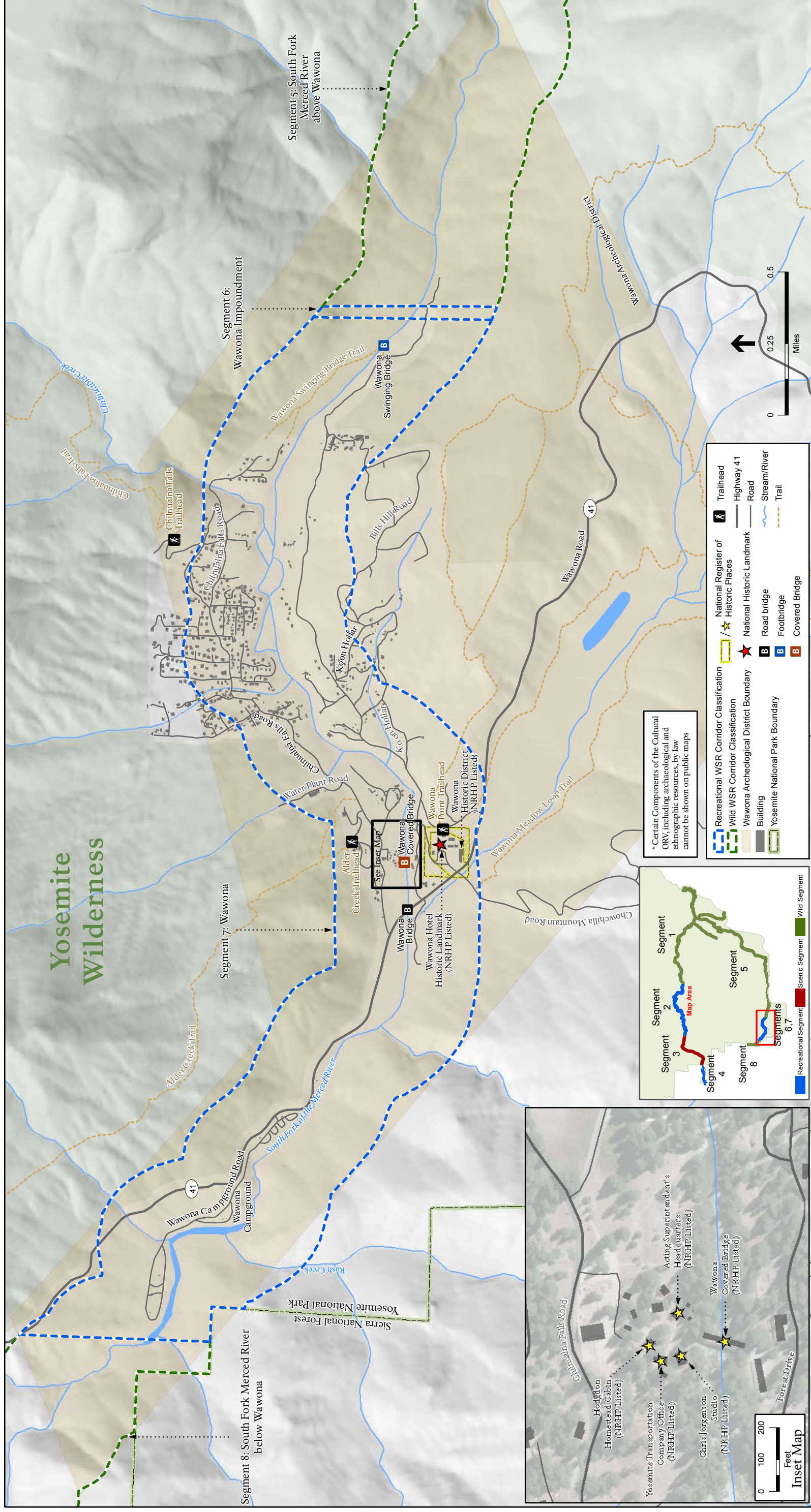
### NEPA Methodology

Analyses of impacts on the historic built-environment for the purposes of the NEPA are based on:

- **Context.** The context of the impact considers whether the impact would be local, segmentwide, parkwide, or regional. For this analysis, local impacts would be those that occur in a specific area within a segment of the river. This analysis further identifies whether there are local impacts in multiple segments. Segmentwide impacts would consist of a number of local impacts within a single segment, or larger-scale impacts that would affect the segment as a whole. Parkwide impacts would extend beyond the river corridor and the study area within Yosemite. Regional impacts would be those that extend to the Yosemite gateway region.

**Intensity.** The intensity of impact would depend on the nature, location, and design of the undertaking, measurable change in character-defining features of a historic property, and the number of contributing elements of a historic district that would be affected. Under NEPA criteria, intensity of the impact depends on the eligibility of the resource and considers whether the impact on eligible or listed historic resources would be negligible, minor, moderate, or major, based on the criteria of adverse effect described above.

- **Negligible.** Impact is barely perceptible and not measurable; would be expected to have no discernible effect on historic resources; confined to small areas or a single contributing element of a larger National Register district or historic resource
- **Minor.** Impact is perceptible and measurable; remains localized and not expected to have an overall effect on historic resources.
- **Moderate.** Impact results in clearly detectable changes to a character-defining feature of a historic resource and could have an appreciable effect on historic resources.
- **Major.** Impact results in a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features; could permanently alter historic resources.



SOURCE: NPS, 1997, 2011

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**Figure 9-51**  
Segments 6,7,8 - Wawona  
Historic Properties

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- **Duration.** The duration of the impact considers whether the impact would occur in the short term or the long term. A short-term impact would be temporary in duration, such as short-term impacts associated with construction or restoration activities. A long-term impact would have a permanent effect on historic resources.
- **Type of Impact.** The type of impact considers whether the impact would be beneficial or adverse to visitor services. Beneficial impacts would stabilize a historic resource to prevent future degradation, or appropriate active intervention would be performed to preserve the elements of the resource that qualify it for NRHP eligibility.

For the purposes of NEPA, “historic resources” include resources listed in and eligible for the NRHP. Resources that are assessed by park staff as being potentially eligible for listing on the National Register, but have not yet been inventoried, would require additional documentation prior to further planning, design and/or construction consistent with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA. In accordance with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect, historic properties in the Merced River corridor are analyzed qualitatively, based on existing knowledge about values and significant elements and modifications that could be identified to alter character-defining features (features that qualify properties for inclusion in the NRHP). The proposed actions are assessed for the effects they may have on properties within the APE. Actions specific to individual alternatives that would affect these historic properties are described under each alternative.

### **Evaluating Impacts under the National Historic Preservation Act**

Any prehistoric or historic building, structure, object, site, landscape, or district that is included in, or is eligible for inclusion in the National Register, is termed a historic property and is managed for protection under the NHPA.

- ***Non-eligible historic resources.*** These are resources that fail to meet the criteria of the NRHP as described above.
- ***Listed historic resources.*** Listed historic resources are those properties that the Keeper of the National Register has officially added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- ***Eligible historic resources.*** Eligible historic resources are those which meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and have been determined eligible either in concurrence with the SHPO or the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

Types of historic properties include archeological sites, historic built-environment resources, archeological and historic districts, cultural landscapes, and traditional cultural properties. These resources may also be considered under the Archeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and EO 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites).

Section 106 of the NHPA requires the federal agency to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties and to provide the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment. The agency must also identify the appropriate SHPO/Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to consult with during the process. It should also plan to involve the public, and identify other potential consulting parties.

Section 106 also applies to properties not formally determined eligible, but which meet eligibility requirements for the National Register and are therefore treated as eligible until a formal determination can be made.

### *NHPA Determinations of Effect*

Conventional terms used by the NPS to measure the context, duration, intensity, and type of impact as part of NEPA analysis are not valid for assessing effects on historic properties under NHPA standards. Because the effect on a historic property is measured by the status of the historic property's eligibility for listing in the NRHP, the negligible, minor, moderate, and major degrees do not apply. Either a historic property maintains the characteristics making it eligible for listing in the National Register or it does not.

The ACHP has issued regulations for the implementation of section 106, entitled *Protection of Historic Properties* (36 CFR 800). ACHP regulations discuss the following types of effect:

**No Historic Properties Affected:** When there are no historic properties present, or the action would have no effect on historic properties, the action is said to have no effect on historic properties.

**No Adverse Effect:** Occurs when there would be an effect on a historic property, but the action would not alter characteristics that make the property eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a way that would diminish the integrity of the property.

**Adverse Effect:** Occurs when an action would alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a way that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Adverse effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the action that may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance, or be cumulative.

The regulations allow an agency, such as the park, to defer both the identification of historic properties (that is, the identification of whether or not a resource is eligible for the NRHP) and the effects assessment through the development of a programmatic agreement. The agreement may also stipulate additional terms, such as consultation, reporting criteria, monitoring, and dispute resolution. Yosemite National Park's section 106 review process is governed by national and park-specific programmatic agreements among the NPS, the ACHP, and the National Council of SHPOs or the California SHPO (NPS, ACHP, and NCSHPO 2008; NPS, SHPO, and ACHP 1999). As described previously, the Park is also proposing, via consultation with the ACHP, SHPO, and traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups, the creation of a Merced River Plan PA regarding treatment of historic resources under the proposed management plan.

### *Resolving Adverse Effects on Historic Properties*

Adverse effects on built-environment historic properties (aboveground buildings and structures) under section 106 of the NHPA may be resolved with a good-faith effort to consider whether and how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the effect. This may involve modifying the undertaking, imposing certain mitigation conditions, or implementing other measures negotiated in consultation with the SHPO, ACHP, American Indian tribal governments, and the public.



As requested by the State Historic Preservation Officer, compliance for the Merced River Plan will be in accordance with standard procedures for the protection of historic properties as identified in 36 CFR Part 800 as well as the 2008 Nationwide programmatic agreement between the NPS, ACHP, NCSHPO for compliance with section 106 of the NHPA. The park is committed to completing a plan-specific programmatic agreement per 36 CFR 800.14 prior to completion of the Record of Decision for the Merced River Plan. This programmatic agreement will be developed in coordination with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) as well as in consultation with all traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups affiliated with the park. The public will have the opportunity to review the draft programmatic agreement between the DEIS and FEIS.

All action would comply with guidance of the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. In the event that the programmatic agreement is not completed prior to project initiation, actions will proceed under the guidance of the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation regarding consultation with SHPO.

### ***Special Requirements for Protecting National Historic Landmarks***

The ACHP regulations also discuss special requirements for protecting National Historic Landmarks at 36 CFR § 800.10. The Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio District NHL, for example, is a National Historic Landmark in Segment 7 of the river corridor that would be subject to this rule. National Historic Landmarks are afforded special consideration in planning efforts to minimize harm. This statutory requirement stems from Section 110(f) of the NHPA.

### ***Area of Potential Effect for this Plan***

As defined under the ACHP regulations at 36 CFR 800.16(d), the area of potential effect means the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties. The proposed APE for the *Merced River Plan/DEIS* is larger than the area encompassed by the Merced River corridor to ensure that the effects of all actions proposed under the plan are thoroughly considered. More specifically, the APE extends out 1.5 miles on each side of the river channel and includes the boundaries of the archeological and historic districts that extend outside the boundaries of the 0.25-mile river corridor (Figure 9-52).

### ***Environmental Consequences of Alternative 1 (No Action)***

#### **All River Segments**

Under Alternative 1 (No Action), all cultural landscape resources, historic buildings, and structures would continue to be managed as they are today. Alternative 1 also includes rehabilitation or other historic preservation as defined in existing or future plans that address specific structures, such as the Ahwahnee Comprehensive Rehabilitation. Impacts would occur only as a result of ongoing park operations and programs, such as facilities maintenance and repair. For historic buildings, cultural landscapes, and structures, these activities would be subject to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards



for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Under Alternative 1 (No Action), impacts on these resources would be negligible under NEPA criteria. Alternative 1 would have no adverse effect on Register-listed resources under the NHPA.

### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

Known historic resources in Segment 1 include the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District and the Merced Lake Ranger Station. Other resources may exist in the upper reaches of the Merced River drainage, such as structures associated with early stock men. Under Alternative 1 (No Action), impacts on these resources would be negligible under NEPA criteria. Alternative 1 is expected to have no adverse effect on these National Register-listed historic properties in Segment 1.

### **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

The Yosemite Valley Historic District is listed on the NRHP in 2006. Several historic sites, structures, and districts throughout the Valley were nominated for the NRHP prior to the Yosemite Valley Historic District nomination. These properties are significant on their own merits as well as contributing to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. **Table 9-211** describes potential impacts to these resources under the No Action Alternative.

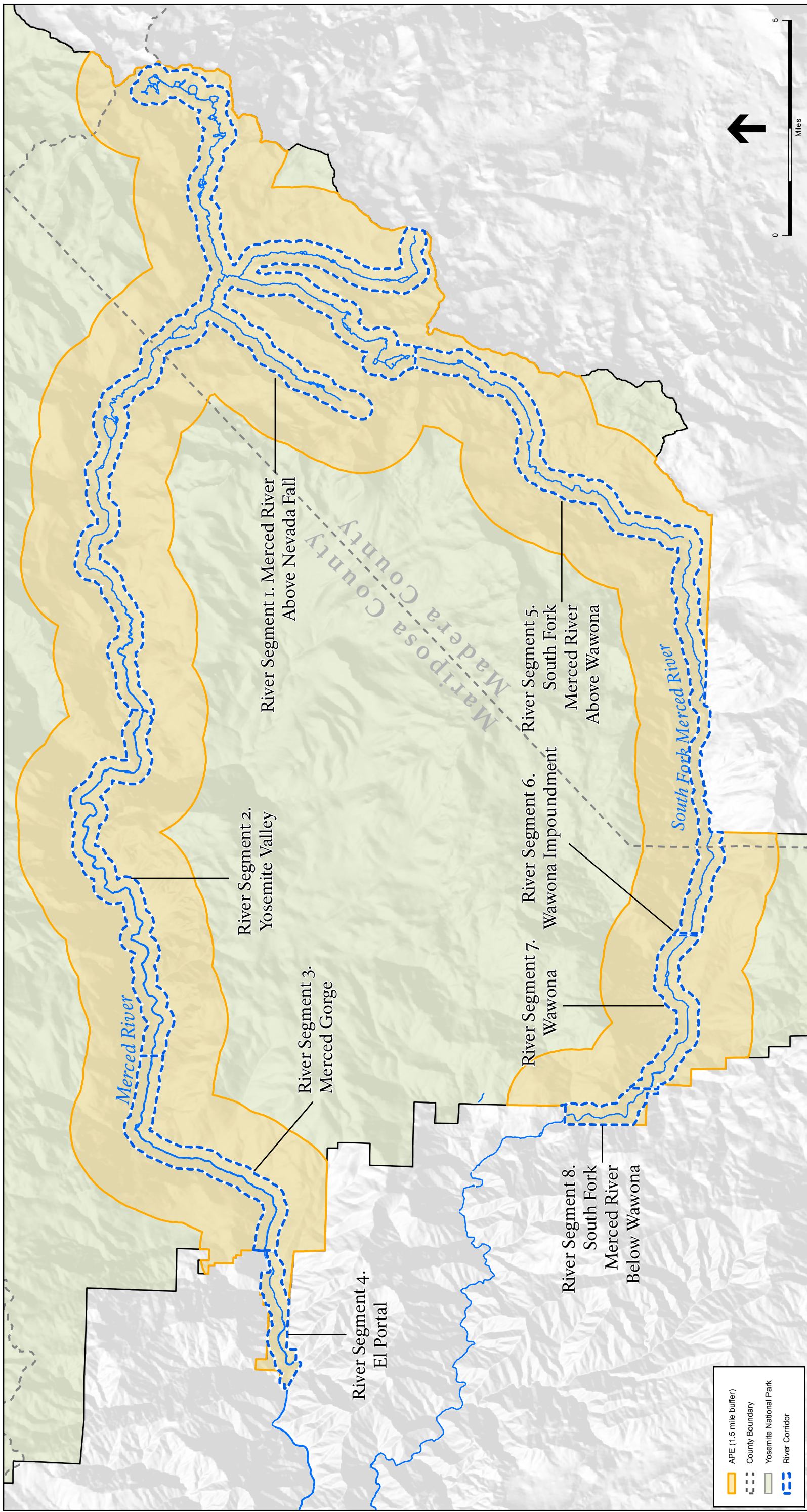
Under Alternative 1 (No Action), impacts on the majority of resources would be negligible under NEPA criteria, although there would be minor, segment-wide, adverse impacts to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. Alternative 1 is expected to have no adverse effect on the majority of National Register-listed historic properties in Segment 2 under NHPA criteria.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

Based on a cultural resources inventory completed in support of the reconstruction of El Portal Road, the NPS, in consultation with the SHPO, determined that the Merced Canyon Travel Corridor is a significant historic resource and is eligible for listing in the NRHP. A preliminary cultural landscape study conducted in El Portal revealed Old El Portal as a potential historic resource within Segment 4, although two other reports have not identified the resource eligible as a district. Both of these segments include several historic sites and structures considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. Under Alternative 1 (No Action), impacts on these resources would be negligible under NEPA criteria. Alternative 1 is expected to have no adverse effect on these National Register-listed historic properties in Segments 3 and 4 under NHPA Criteria.

### **Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

Cultural landscape inventories are being conducted for the Wawona area, focusing on Washburn Company holdings (including the Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio District NHL). This resort complex once encompassed many other facilities necessary to support such a remote facility. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center, on the banks of the South Fork Merced River, contains many structures relocated from other areas of the park. Other structures include the Wawona Covered Bridge, gray barn, slaughterhouse, and laundry, now used as a wagon repair shop. Wilderness areas



SOURCE: NPS, 1997, 2011

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**Figure 9-52**  
Area of Potential Effect

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**TABLE 9-211: ALTERNATIVE 1 IMPACTS TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN SEGMENT 2**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159) (Contributing meadows to the Yosemite Valley Historic District include Bridalveil Meadow, El Captain, Slaughterhouse, Sentinel, Leidig, Cook's, Ahwahnee, Stoneman, and Lamon Meadows)	The continued encroachment of conifers into contributing meadows within the Yosemite Valley Historic District would have an adverse effect on the setting of these contributors.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. A history of intensive use and management, as well as the iconic significance of the meadows as elements of Yosemite scenery, make the Yosemite meadows contributing sites in the historic district (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>The encroachment of conifers into historic meadow areas in the Yosemite Valley Historic District would impact the historic setting of the meadows, as well as the potential loss of the meadows as contributing resources, resulting in a long term, moderate adverse impact under NEPA.</p> <p>The encroachment of conifers into historic meadow areas in the Yosemite Valley Historic District would alter the character of the contributing resources, and would result in an adverse effect to the historic district under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Village Historic District	The continued mothballing of the Superintendent's House would result in an adverse effect to both the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Hart, 1978).</p> <p>The Superintendent's Residence and Garage is subject to recurring flooding and subsequent water damage. The building was mothballed following the 1997 floods. The historic interior finishes of the Superintendent's Residence, especially the distinctive plaster work, are in poor condition. Also, structural issues related to settling of the foundation have resulted in displacement of walls and floors. Visitor use in this area has caused radiating informal trails that impact Cook's Meadow. The continued impacts to the Superintendent's House have the potential to diminish the integrity of the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. This action would result in a long term, minor adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA.</p> <p>While the Superintendent's Residence and Garage was mothballed following the 1997 floods, mothballing does not prevent deterioration. The continued mothballing of Residence 1 would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>

above Wawona contain historic trails. Potential impacts under Alternative 1 (No Action) would include ongoing degradation of resources from visitor and operational use; however, ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation would result in negligible impacts on historic resources. Under Alternative 1, impacts on these resources would be negligible under NEPA criteria. Alternative 1 (No Action) would likely have no adverse effect on these National Register-listed historic properties in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 under NHPA Criteria.

### **Summary of Impacts Under No Action Alternative**

Identified historic resources that could be adversely affected by the No Action Alternative include the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Superintendent's House. These effects include the alteration of character-defining features of these National Register-listed resources through neglect.

### **Cumulative Impacts from Alternative 1 (No-Action)**

#### ***Past Actions***

Past actions have resulted in a range of beneficial and adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts of past actions include extensive actions to preserve and maintain historic resources, including the Camp Curry Historic District (Curry Village Registration Building, Guest Lounge and Amphitheater Rehabilitation), as well as restoration of meadows associated with the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's Meadow). Adverse effects include the removal of the NR eligible Cascades area houses.

#### ***Present Actions***

Present actions contribute to a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts. These impacts include efforts to restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee NHL while completing long-term rehabilitation of the building and associated features, construction of the Wawona fire station, Camp 4 relocating eight campsites, and the Ahwahnee Hotel Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence project. Additionally, the park has established the Yosemite Valley Rockfall Hazard Zone in Curry Village, which has resulted in the loss of historic structures. These structures are being documented under a separate MOA.

#### ***Future Actions***

Impacts from future actions would be similar to those discussed for past and present actions as a mix of beneficial and adverse impacts to historic resources. The Curry Village Rehabilitation of Historic Cabins with Bath Structures, seismic upgrade to the Ahwahnee Dormitory, and efforts to stabilize the floor of the Ahwahnee Hotel, all consist of potential future actions with the potential to affect historic resources within the park.

### ***Overall Cumulative Impact***

There would be no change in the treatment and management of historic buildings, structures, and cultural landscape resources as a result of Alternative 1 (No Action). The results of the neglect in Segment 2 would contribute towards a moderate adverse cumulative effect.

### ***Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6***

While discussed separately, actions and impacts common to Alternatives 2-6 are included in the analysis of each subsequent alternative, in addition to actions specific to the individual alternatives.

### **All River Segments**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Table 9-212 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in all river segments under Alternatives 2-6.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities that are common to Alternatives 2–6 and would occur across all segments of the river corridor would not be expected to result in an adverse effect on historic resources because these actions would not affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Actions common to Alternatives 2–6 that are intended to protect and enhance river values and would occur within Segment 1 would not result in an adverse effect on historic resources because these actions would not affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Actions common to Alternatives 2–6 that are intended to manage visitor use and facilities and would occur in Segment 1 would not result in an adverse effect on historic resources because these actions would not affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Table 9-213 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternatives 2-6.

**TABLE 9-212: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN ALL RIVER SEGMENTS UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
All segments	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Abandoned infrastructure	Throughout the corridor, abandoned underground infrastructure that alters hydrology, including remnants of former sewer treatment facilities, sewer and water line, and manholes, will be removed and the area restored to natural conditions. This may affect historic resources.	Throughout all segments of the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor, removing abandoned infrastructure has the potential to affect historic resources. These resources have not been previously evaluated for their historic significance, and the loss or demolition of historical resources would be a long term, local, moderate adverse impact, depending on whether the resources are found to be contributors to a historic district or significant in their own right. Park actions to remove abandoned infrastructure throughout the river corridor would be completed subject to the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation) when site-level information is available. Following the determination of site level information, impacts to these properties will be determined per NEPA and NHPA.



**TABLE 9-213: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	The Ahwahnee Hotel (1977000149; NHL); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Restoring the impacted portion of Ahwahnee Meadow to natural meadow conditions, through removal of tennis courts, irrigation, ditches, and restoration of topography would result in the removal of the tennis courts which are a contributing structure to the Ahwahnee Hotel.	<p>The Ahwahnee, because of its architectural design and pristine condition, is among the most significant park hotels in the country. Its rustic style was designed to reflect its environment, and its significance lies with the preservation of the building and its setting. The Tennis Courts are a contributor to the National Register Ahwahnee Hotel and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but are located outside the boundary of the National Historic Landmark. The Ahwahnee Meadow is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the National Register listed Ahwahnee Hotel, and the National Historic Landmark Ahwahnee Hotel (Hart 1977; NPS 2006d; Harrison, 1977).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The removal of the tennis courts, a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Ahwahnee Hotel, would result in to the alteration of the Ahwahnee Hotel and the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The tennis courts and Ahwahnee meadow are parts of the historic setting and landscape of the Ahwahnee Hotel and contribute to its aesthetic and significance. The removal of the tennis courts would, however, result in a beneficial impact through the restoration of an earlier configuration of the historic Ahwahnee Meadow. The action would be taken consistent with mitigation measure HIST-2 and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed removal of the tennis courts would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse effect to the NR Ahwahnee Hotel and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. The restoration of the Ahwahnee Meadow would result in a long term, local, beneficial impact to the NR Ahwahnee Hotel and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of the tennis courts, a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Ahwahnee Hotel, would alter both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and NR Ahwahnee Hotel. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with mitigation measure HIST-2 and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The</p>



**TABLE 9-213: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				removal of the tennis courts will result in the diminishment of integrity of the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the NR Ahwahnee Hotel, and would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and NR Ahwahnee Hotel under NHPA. The restoration of the Ahwahnee Meadow would have no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and NR Ahwahnee Hotel under NHPA.
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Restoration efforts for meadows contributing to Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's, Sentinel, Ahwahnee, Stoneman) would result in no adverse effects to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. The Cook's, Sentinel, Ahwahnee, and Stoneman Meadows are contributing sites to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as characteristic landscape features in the Valley (NPS 2006d).  NEPA: The restoration of the meadows to their historic setting would result in a long term, segment-wide, beneficial impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.  NHPA: The restoration of the meadows to their historic setting would improve the condition of a resource and would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Ditches	Throughout Segment 2, fill 2,155' of ditches not serving current operational needs using adjacent berm material or pond and plug techniques.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation (NPS 2006d).  The infill of ditches in Segment 2 has the potential to alter historic resources. These ditches have not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource, and the loss or demolition of historical resources would be a long term, moderate, segment wide, adverse impact, depending on whether the resources are found to be contributors to a historic district or significant in their own right. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to

**TABLE 9-213: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. Park actions to fill the ditches would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation when site-level information is available.
<b>Scenic Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The removal of encroaching conifers from meadows contributing to the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Ahwahnee, Bridalveil, Cook's, Sentinel) would result in no adverse effects to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. The Ahwahnee, Bridalveil, Cook's, and Sentinel Meadows are contributing sites to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as characteristic landscape features in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The removal of encroaching conifers would help restore the meadows to their historic condition, and would result in a long term, segment-wide, beneficial effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of encroaching conifers would help restore the meadows to their historic condition, would improve the condition of a resource and would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**Biological Resource Actions.** Biological resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternatives 2-6 would result in minor or moderate, local, long term adverse impacts on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District and Ahwahnee Hotel, as both an individual resource and a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and NR Ahwahnee Hotel under NHPA.

**Scenic Resource Actions.** Scenic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternatives 2-6 would result in long term, segment-wide, beneficial effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through restoration of contributing meadows, and no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.

*Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-214 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternatives 2-6.

**Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp.** Actions in the Yosemite Village area include the removal of the Ahwahnee tennis courts and pool and redesign and formalization of parking at the Ahwahnee Hotel, redesign of the parking lot and re-routing Northside Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, removal of the Valley Concessioner Garage Building and 4 garages north of Curry Garage, and repurposing of the Yosemite Valley Group Utility Building (Fort Yosemite). As described in table 9-214 below, these actions, other than the Ahwahnee Parking lot redesign, would have a minor to moderate, local, long term adverse impact to the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the Yosemite Village Historic District, and the Ahwahnee Hotel under NHPA. The redesign of the Ahwahnee parking lot would have no adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District or Ahwahnee Hotel under NEPA, and no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District or Ahwahnee Hotel under NHPA.

**Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4.** Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 areas would include the removal of facilities from the Yosemite Lodge area and construction of a new bus stop, parking area, and campsites near Camp 4. As described in table 9-214 below, Yosemite Lodge was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic properties for the National Register, and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning. Impacts to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the construction of new facilities within the district near Camp 4 would result in a minor, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and no adverse effect under NHPA.

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	The Ahwahnee Hotel (1977000149: NHL); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Retaining the existing facilities and services, including bar and food service, dining room, gift shop, and sweet shop would not affect the Ahwahnee Hotel. Removal of the non-contributing pool would not affect the Ahwahnee Hotel. The tennis courts are considered a contributing structure to the Ahwahnee Hotel, and their removal would affect this historic resource.	<p>The Ahwahnee, because of its architectural design and pristine condition, is among the most significant park hotels in the country. Its rustic style was designed to reflect its environment, and its significance lies with the preservation of the building and its setting. The pool is a non-contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the National Register listed Ahwahnee Hotel, and the National Historic Landmark Ahwahnee Hotel (Harrison, 1977; NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The retention of existing facilities and removal of the pool would result in no adverse impact to either the NR Ahwahnee Hotel or Yosemite Valley Historic District. The impact of removal of the tennis courts is discussed above in table 9-213. The pool is a non-contributing resource, and its removal would have no effect on the Ahwahnee Hotel or Yosemite Valley Historic District. As described above, the removal of the tennis courts would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse impact to the NR Ahwahnee Hotel and a long term, local, minor adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The retention of existing facilities and the removal of the pool would not alter historic properties. The pool is a non-contributing resource to the Ahwahnee Hotel and Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the continued use of existing facilities would not diminish the integrity of the Ahwahnee Hotel or Yosemite Valley Historic District. The adverse effect of the removal of the tennis courts is described under actions to restore the Ahwahnee Meadow in table 9-213. As described in table 9-213, the removal of the tennis courts would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and NR Ahwahnee Hotel through removal of an identified contributing resource.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	The Ahwahnee Hotel (1977000149: NHL); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Redesign and formalize the existing parking lot at the Ahwahnee Hotel, providing for proper drainage to meet hotel needs and replace spaces lost in the rockfall. This would include the construction of a new 50 parking space lot east of the current parking.	<p>The Ahwahnee, because of its architectural design and pristine condition, is among the most significant park hotels in the country. Its rustic style was designed to reflect its environment, and its significance lies with the preservation of the building and its setting. The Ahwahnee Parking area (west) is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and both parking lots are contributors to the National Register listed Ahwahnee Hotel, and the National Historic Landmark Ahwahnee Hotel (Harrison, 1977; NPS 2006d).</p>

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA:</i> The Ahwahnee parking lots are contributors to the Ahwahnee Hotel as part of the historic setting, but are not architecturally distinct themselves. The alteration of the parking area has the potential to result in changes to the historic circulation and setting of the hotel. Planning and design efforts would follow the Ahwahnee Historic Structures Report (1997) and Ahwahnee Cultural Landscape Report (2010) recommendations for parking lot configuration and gate house restoration. Planning and design efforts would be planned in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA. This action would result in no adverse impact to either the Ahwahnee Hotel NHL or NR, or the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NEHA:</i> The Ahwahnee parking lots are contributors to the Ahwahnee Hotel as part of the historic setting, but are not architecturally distinct themselves. The alteration of the parking area has the potential to result in changes to the historic circulation and setting of the hotel. Planning and design efforts would follow the Ahwahnee Historic Structures Report (1997) and Ahwahnee Cultural Landscape Report (2010) recommendations for parking lot configuration and gate house restoration. Planning and design efforts would be planned in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid any potentially adverse effects to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA. This action would result in no adverse effect to the Ahwahnee Hotel NHL or NR, or the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The relocation of parking to the north of the road and re-routing Northside Drive south of the parking at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area would affect historic circulation patterns in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Northside and Southside drives create a framework for circulation around the valley, on either side of the Merced River, and are contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA:</i> The relocation of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner General Office and the Concessioner Garage. The relocation of an existing parking lot within the existing developed footprint would not result in a significant change to the historic setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The re-routing of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns and alteration of an identified contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The road realignment and relocation of the parking lot will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The relocation of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The relocation of the parking lot to an existing, developed administrative footprint will not alter characteristics that make the Yosemite Valley Historic District eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a way that would diminish the integrity of the district. The relocation of the parking lot will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. The realignment of Northside Drive would diminish the integrity of the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns and alteration of an identified contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The road realignment will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Removal of the Concessioner Garage Building and 4 garages north of Curry Garage would result in the loss of 5 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Concessioner Garage Building and 4 garages north of Curry Garage are contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The removal of the Concessioner Garage Building and 4 additional garages north of Curry Garage has the potential to affect alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Removal of the buildings would result in the loss of 5 contributing buildings to the district (of 302 and 68 resources, respectively). This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would result in a long term, moderate, local adverse impact to Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of the Concessioner Garage Building and 4 additional garages north of Curry Garage has the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Removal of the buildings would result in the loss of 5 contributing buildings to the district. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The demolition or loss of these contributing resources would diminish the integrity of the historic districts. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Repurposing of the Fort Yosemite building would result in the alteration of the physical structure, affecting a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The proposed rehabilitation of Buildings 516, 518, and 519 would	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Yosemite Valley Group Utility Building (Fort Yosemite) is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Yosemite Village Historic District (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The repurposing of the Yosemite Valley Group Utility Building, a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, as the location of the</p>

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)			<p>adhere to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the treatment of historic properties, and would be accomplished without adverse effects.</p>	<p>Valley Garage has the potential to affect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The physical alteration of the structure would adversely affect the building's integrity of design and infringe upon its ability to convey the historic significance of the district. Major changes to the exterior and interior of the Yosemite Valley Group Utility Building (Fort Yosemite) are proposed, and these changes are likely beyond the allowances of rehabilitation (repairs and alterations for efficient and compatible uses). This will likely result in a long term, moderate, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. The following historic buildings are slated for rehabilitation to provide more efficient storage: Building 516 (Yosemite Valley Equipment Area Utility Shed), Building 518 (Yosemite Valley Equipment Area Utility Shed), and Building 519 (Yosemite Valley Equipment Area Utility Shed). Following the Secretary Standards, it may be possible to accomplish this without adverse impacts.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The repurposing of the Yosemite Valley Group Utility Building and three other buildings, all contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, may diminish the integrity of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The physical alteration of the structure would adversely affect the building's integrity of design and infringe upon its ability to convey the historic significance of the district. The alteration of the Yosemite Valley Group Utility Building (Fort Yosemite) are likely beyond the allowances of rehabilitation (repairs and alterations for efficient and compatible uses). This will likely result in an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. Rehabilitation of Building 516, Building 518, and Building 519 should be undertaken according to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation. Under these guidelines, the rehabilitation of Buildings 516, 518, and 519 would result in no adverse effect Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>



**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Camp 4 (2003000056); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Expansion eastward to provide 40 walk-in sites while retaining 35 campsites at Camp 4 would affect Camp 4 as a historic property as well as its status as a contributing site in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). Camp 4 is a historically significant site for its association with the growth and development of rock climbing as a recreational activity within the valley. During its period of significance, Camp 4 earned national and international acclaim as the center of modern rock climbing. The approximately 10-acre site served as a place for training, ascent planning, and information and equipment exchange (NPS 2006d; NPS, 2003).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The entirety of the Camp 4 site is considered to be a contributing resource to both the NR site and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the expansion of the number of sites has the potential to affect the setting of Camp 4. The site's significance centers on its location as the development of modern rock climbing. While the addition of 40 walk in sites would alter the site's setting, it would not result in an adverse effect to the character defining features and nature of the site. The addition of new facilities within the Yosemite Valley Historic District would be completed under the Yosemite Design Guidelines. The additional sites would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would have a long term, minor adverse impact on Camp 4 and the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>MHPA:</i> The entirety of the Camp 4 site is considered to be a contributing resource to both the NR site and the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the expansion of the number of sites would alter the setting of Camp 4. The site's significance, however, centers on its location as the development of modern rock climbing. While the addition of 40 walk in sites would alter the site's setting, it would not result in an adverse effect to the character defining features and nature of the site. The addition of new facilities within the Yosemite Valley Historic District would be completed under the Yosemite Design Guidelines. While the action will have an effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the action would</p>

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>not alter characteristics that make this district eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a way that would diminish the integrity of the district. The additional sites would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would have no adverse effect on Camp 4 and the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Camp 4 (2003000056); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	<p>Construction along Northside Drive, including a shuttle bus stop, parking for 41 vehicles, and an overflow parking lot for 25 vehicles, all of which is proposed outside the boundary for Camp 4 but within the Yosemite Valley Historic District, would have an affect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the setting it provides for Camp 4.</p>	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). Camp 4 is a historically significant site for its association with the growth and development of rock climbing as a recreational activity within the valley. During its period of significance, Camp 4 earned national and international acclaim as the center of modern rock climbing. The approximately 10-acre site served as a place for training, ascent planning, and information and equipment exchange (NPS 2006d; NPS, 2003).</p> <p>NEPA: The construction of both the shuttle bus stop and new parking lots on the south side of Northside Drive would occur outside of the site boundary of Camp 4. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation, and the addition of new facilities within the Yosemite Valley Historic District would be completed under the Yosemite Design Guidelines. The addition of new parking outside of the site boundary would have no adverse effect on Camp 4 and a minor, local, long term adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p>NHPA: The construction of both the shuttle bus stop and new parking lots on the south side of Northside Drive would occur outside of the site boundary of Camp 4. The addition of new facilities within the Yosemite Valley Historic District has the potential to diminish the integrity of setting to the district. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800</p>

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				consultation, and the addition of new facilities within the Yosemite Valley Historic District would be completed under the Yosemite Design Guidelines. While the action will have an effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the action would not alter characteristics that make this district eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a way that would diminish the integrity of the district. The addition of new parking outside of the site boundary would have no adverse effect on Camp 4 and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District	In Yosemite Lodge area, the removal of the NPS volunteer office, Yosemite Lodge housing (Thousands Cabins), Housing at Highland Court, Yosemite Lodge Post Office, Yosemite Lodge Pool and Snack Stand has the potential to affect historic resources in the Yosemite Lodge area.	In 1956, the Yosemite Lodge was completely rebuilt and most of the old lodge buildings were demolished. The Yosemite Lodge is almost entirely the product of postwar planning and construction, but has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource (NPS 2006d).  The removal of existing buildings in the Yosemite Lodge area could affect historic resources. Yosemite Lodge has not been evaluated for NR eligibility as a Mission 66 resource. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.
<b>Curry Village</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Camp Curry Historic District	Replacement of temporary employee housing at Huff House with 16 permanent buildings would affect the historic setting of this area of the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Camp Curry Historic District.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). Huff House is a contributing building to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but is not within the boundaries of the Camp Curry Historic District (NPS 2006d).

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA:</i> The introduction of new permanent buildings has the potential to affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The design and installation of new buildings and facilities would comply with the Yosemite Design Guidelines and NPS cultural resource management guidelines. Any new facilities would be designed to be compatible with the distinctive character of the landscape. These existing guidelines would protect the historic properties by requiring new facilities to be compatible to the maximum extent possible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion, and massing of existing historic resources and Yosemite Valley Historic District as a whole. This action would affect a contributing resource, but would not alter the character-defining feature(s), nor would the action diminish the overall integrity of the historic property. New construction that follows these regulations and guidelines would result in a minor, long term, local adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The introduction of new permanent buildings at Huff House has the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District. As described above, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation, and installation of new buildings and facilities would comply with the Yosemite Design Guidelines and NPS cultural resource management guidelines. This new construction would result in no adverse effect to Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Removal of services at the ice skating rink at Curry Village would not result in the loss of a contributing element to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The ice rink is a

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>non-contributing element to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District, although the Camp Curry Bike Shop/Skate Rental Building is a contributing building to the Yosemite Valley Historic District (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The ice skating rink is a non-contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley and Camp Curry Historic Districts. No associated historic buildings or structures would be removed with this action. If the contributing Camp Curry Bike Shop/Skate Rental Building continues to be used for recreational purposes, there would be no adverse impact on the building. The removal of services at a non-contributing resources under the proposed action would result in a local, long term, beneficial impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic Districts under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The ice skating rink is a non-contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley and Camp Curry Historic Districts. No associated historic buildings or structures would be removed with this action. If the contributing Camp Curry Bike Shop/Skate Rental Building continues to be used for recreational purposes, there would be no adverse effect to the contributing building in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The proposed action would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities and redesign or repurposing of existing facilities at Yosemite Lodge would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The introduction of new permanent buildings or additional parking at Yosemite Lodge has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The installation of new buildings and facilities would comply with the Yosemite Design Guidelines and NPS cultural resource management guidelines, and consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or 36 CFR 800 consultation). Any new facilities would be designed to be compatible with the distinctive character of the landscape. These existing guidelines would protect the historic properties by requiring new facilities to be compatible to the maximum extent</p>

**TABLE 9-214: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>possible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion, and massing of existing historic resources and Yosemite Valley Historic District as a whole. New construction that follows these guidelines would result in a minor, long term, local, adverse impact on historic resources under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA</i>: The introduction of new permanent buildings or additional parking at Yosemite Lodge has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The installation of new buildings and facilities would comply with the Yosemite Design Guidelines and NPS cultural resource management guidelines, and consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or 36 CFR 800 consultation). Any new facilities would be designed to be compatible with the distinctive character of the landscape. These existing guidelines would protect the historic properties by requiring new facilities to be compatible to the maximum extent possible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion, and massing of existing historic resources and Yosemite Valley Historic District as a whole. New construction that follows these guidelines would result in a no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**Curry Village.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Curry Village area would include the replacement of temporary housing at Huff House with 16 permanent buildings and the removal of services at the Curry Village Ice Rink. As described in table 9-214 above, actions to remove existing facilities would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA and an adverse effect under NHPA. Construct new permanent housing would result in a long term, local, minor adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and the removal of services at the non contributing ice rink would have no impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. These actions would result in no adverse effect under NHPA.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Actions intended to protect and enhance river values common to Alternatives 2–6 and located within Segments 3 and 4 would not result in adverse effects on historic resources in El Portal because such actions would not affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-215 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities Segments 3 and 4 under Alternatives 2-6.

### **Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Actions intended to protect and enhance river values common to Alternatives 2–6 and located within Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 would not result in adverse effects on historic resources because such actions would not affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-216 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 under Alternatives 2-6.

### **Summary of Impacts Common to Alternatives 2–6**

Identified historic resources that would be affected by actions common to Alternatives 2–6 include potentially eligible trails and roads, the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, Ahwahnee Hotel NHL, Camp 4, Camp Curry Historic District, Yosemite Village Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District (specifically impacts to Curry Village), the Wawona Hotel and Pavillion Historic District, and potential historic resources in El Portal and Wawona. These impacts would include the alteration of character-defining features or historic context, or potential demolition of National Register-listed or eligible resources.

**TABLE 9-215: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 3	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal Historic Structures	The construction of 12 infill housing units in vacant lots in old El Portal to facilitate removal of temporary housing in Yosemite Valley may impact the historic setting of the area.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. Old El Portal contains several listed and eligible historic resources in the vicinity of the proposed infill (El Portal Chapel, Track Bus No. 19, Bagby Stationhouse, Hetch Hetchy Railroad Engine No. 6, and the Yosemite Valley Railroad Caboose No. 15). Old El Portal has been proposed as a historic district and would be significant under Criterion A due to its role in settlement, industry, and tourism in the Yosemite Region, from 1907-1951. Old El Portal historic district was recommended eligible under Criterion C because of its eclectic assemblage of landscape characteristics, including buildings, structures, land use, spatial organization, cluster arrangements, and circulation (NewFields International, 2005). Additionally, some historic resources in El Portal are considered potentially eligible by the Park, including El Portal Hotel and Motor Inn Historic District, Foresta Road, Rancheria Mission 66 Historic District, and Standard Oil office and bulk fuel storage tanks (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The construction of new housing in old El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to determine eligibility. A determination of effect under NEPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p> <p>The construction of new housing in old El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to determine eligibility. A determination of effect under NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>



**TABLE 9-215: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 3	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal Historic Structures	The removal or relocation of 36 existing private residences in Abbeville or Trailer Village areas would not impact historic resources in El Portal.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. The homes in Abbeville were determined unlikely to be individually eligible to be listed on the National Register. The trailer park was built during the Mission 66 era as part of the development intended for transient structures but lacks any distinct qualities to warrant inclusion on the National Register by itself (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The removal of private residences in Abbeville and Trailer Village would not alter historic resources in the area. These residences were determined unlikely for listing in the National Register, and their removal would result in a no adverse impact under NEPA.</p> <p>The removal of private residences in Abbeville and Trailer Village would not alter historic resources in the area. These residences were determined unlikely for listing in the National Register, and their removal would result in a no adverse effect under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-216: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 7 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Historic Buildings in Wawona	In Wawona Town center, the park plans to construct a 4,500 square foot building and grounds maintenance facility, a 6,800 square foot combined structural and wild land fire station, and a 4,000 square foot roads maintenance facility, and rehabilitate the existing California Conservation Corp (CCC) structures for potential re-use. The construction of new facilities may impact the historic setting of the area, and the reuse of the CCC structures may impact their integrity.	<p>The community of Wawona possesses several historic resources (Hogdon Homestead Cabin, Acting Superintendent's Headquarters, Chris Jorgensen Studio, and Wawona Covered Bridge), all located over .25 miles from the proposed construction site. The CCC structures have not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resources.</p> <p>The construction of new maintenance facilities in Wawona has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area. The installation new facilities and would comply with NPS cultural resource management guidelines and stipulations of the Merced River Plan programmatic agreement or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. Any new facilities design would be compatible with the distinctive character of the landscape and surrounding buildings. These existing and proposed guidelines would protect historic resources by requiring new facilities to be compatible to the maximum extent possible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion, and massing of existing historic properties. New construction that follows these guidelines would minimize adverse impacts on historic resources under NEPA.</p> <p>The CCC structures have not been evaluated for NR eligibility. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.</p>
Segment 7	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Community of Wawona	The removal of shoulder and off-road parking would not affect historic resources.	<p>The community of Wawona possesses several National Register listed and eligible historic resources, and is currently being analyzed as a historic district by the Park, although no formal evaluation has been submitted to SHPO.</p> <p>The prohibition of shoulder and off-road parking would have a beneficial impact on historic circulation patterns for Wawona under NEPA and no adverse effect to historic properties under NHPA.</p>
Segment 7	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Community of Wawona	The redesign of the bus stop at Wawona would not affect historic resources.	<p>The community of Wawona possesses several National Register listed and eligible historic resources, and is currently being analyzed as a historic district by the Park, although no formal evaluation has been submitted to SHPO.</p>

**TABLE 9-216: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 7 UNDER ALTERNATIVES 2-6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Wawona Hotel and Pavillion Historic District	Following the recommendations from the Wawona Hotel Historic Structures Report (2012) to address contributing elements in "poor" condition at Main Hotel, Manager's Cottage, and Annex Building, and Clark Cottage to bring the building to "good" condition would have no adverse effect on historic resources.	<p>The Wawona Hotel and Pavillion Historic District consists of a complex of buildings associated with local and regional significance due to its association with one of the region's earliest settlers, Galen Clark, as well as its connection with the development of transportation routes within the region (Chappell, 1975).</p> <p><i>NEPA</i>: Efforts to follow the recommendations from the Wawona Hotel Historic Structures Report for improving the condition of historic structures associated with the Wawona Hotel will result in a long term, local, beneficial impact to the Wawona Hotel structures under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA</i>: Efforts to follow the recommendations from the Wawona Hotel Historic Structures Report for improving the condition of historic structures associated with the Wawona Hotel will result in a no adverse effect to the Wawona Hotel structures under NHPA.</p> <p>The redesign of the bus stop would comply with Yosemite Design Guidelines. Any new facilities would be designed to be compatible with the distinctive character of the landscape and surrounding buildings. These guidelines would protect historic resources by requiring new facilities to be compatible to the maximum extent possible with the historic materials, features, size, scale, proportion, and massing of existing historic properties. New construction that follows these guidelines would avoid adverse impacts on historic resources under NEPA and result in no adverse effect under NHPA.</p>

## ***Environmental Consequences of Alternative 2: Self-Reliant Visitor Experiences and Extensive Floodplain Restoration***

### **All River Segments**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values across all segments that are proposed for Alternative 2 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

There are no actions to manage visitor use and facilities across all river segments proposed for Alternative 2 that would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

There are no actions to protect and enhance river values within Segment 1 proposed for Alternative 2 that would result in an adverse effect on historic resources; no actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-217 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 2.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 2 would result in a major, long term, local adverse impact on the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District (Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District) under NEPA and an adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA through the removal and delisting the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District from the National Register. No NHL would be affected.

### **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Table 9-218 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2.

**TABLE 9-217: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 1 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 1	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	The closure of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and conversion of the area to designated wilderness. This would result in the loss of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp.	<p>The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is considered significant in recreation and education as one of seven high country camps whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the National Park Service. The Yosemite camp system initially began in 1916 as an effort to attract people into the park's high country. Through the use of organized parties guided by a Yosemite naturalist, the Park Service established a unique pattern of interpretive service in the high country of one of the most populous national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the agency in all natural areas of the system (Criterion A) (Kirk, 2004).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The alteration or removal of historic period buildings and structures in the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp area would affect the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District. The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. The demolition of an eligible historic resource represents a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features and the permanent alteration of the historic setting and character of the segment. While the action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), the proposed action would result in a major, long term, local adverse impact on the district under NEPA through the removal and delisting the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District from the National Register</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The alteration or removal of historic period buildings and structures in the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp area would affect the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District. The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. The demolition of an eligible historic resource represents a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features and the permanent alteration of the historic setting and character of the segment. While the action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), the proposed action would result in an adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA through the removal and delisting the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District from the National Register.</p>

**TABLE 9-218: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Removal of historic Ahwahnee Row and Tecoya Housing buildings would result in loss of 21 contributing resources to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Village Historic District	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). Structures in Lower Tecoya include dormitories, apartments and associated laundry rooms, the Ahwahnee Row Houses, small cottages, cabins, and curvilinear roads connects the housing units. The Ahwahnee Row Houses are a group of one-and two-story residences built in the 1920s on the east side of Lower Tecoya, and form a boundary between a densely developed and coniferous Lower Tecoya area and the open Ahwahnee meadow. To the west of the row houses are four three-story wood dormitory buildings and an adjacent kitchen facility. Half of the dormitories in Lower Tecoya were constructed in the late 1920s and significantly altered in the 1930s, while the other half were constructed in the 1930s and remain unchanged.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The Tecoya concessioner housing area and Ahwahnee Row houses are contributors to both the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. These buildings reflect the rustic architecture characteristic of Yosemite Village, and their loss would result in an adverse impact on this historic resource. These buildings constitute 21 of the 302 contributing buildings within the Yosemite Valley Historic district (with 929 total contributing resources) and 68 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Village Historic District. While the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or 36 CFR 800 consultation), the proposed action would result in a moderate, long term, local, adverse impact to both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The Tecoya concessioner housing area and Ahwahnee Row houses are contributors of the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District, and their removal or demolition would result in an adverse effect on this historic resource. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or 36 CFR 800 regulations). The alteration or demolition of these contributing resources would potentially diminish the integrity of the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-218: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The restoration of Stoneman Meadow including the re-alignment of Southside Drive would affect historic circulation patterns in the Curry Village Area of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would, however, improve Stoneman Meadow, another contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The historic circulation of Camp Curry is predominantly pedestrian, with vehicular approaches from the west (Old Village) and northwest (Stoneman Bridge). Today vehicular access is limited mainly to the northwestern approach, and the western approach has been converted to parking and foot trail. Since the original entry was oriented to this entrance, the historic gateway has become somewhat obsolete, at least in the current circulation configuration. Stoneman Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley, as is Southside Drive (NPS 2006d). Southside Drive is not considered a contributor to the Camp Curry Historic District (Hart, 1979). Boys town is not included in the Camp Curry Historic District nomination.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns in Curry Village and in the Valley. The action will not, however, result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, which is the focus of remaining historic vehicular circulation. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Southside Drive, in an area not out of character with its existing route. Additionally, the restoration of Stoneman Meadow to a more historic setting would have a beneficial effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Finally, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-218: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NHPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. As described above, the action will not result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, but will alter Southside Drive, a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The restoration of Stoneman Meadow to a more historic setting would improve the condition of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail through Slaughterhouse Meadow has the potential to affect both these contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Valley Loop Trail is one of the primary trails originating in the valley. The Valley Loop Trail dates from the 1920s and was originally built as a bridle trail, generally aligned along existing circulation routes. Thirteen additional miles were added to the Valley Loop Trail in 1928, requiring the construction of 14 bridges. Today, the Valley Loop Trail includes the entire remaining bridle trail system in the valley and it is approximately 21 miles long (Criterion A). The Slaughterhouse Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> Both the Valley Loop Trail and Slaughterhouse Meadow are contributors to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail could alter both of these resources. Any sections of Valley Loop Trail that would be rerouted would require additional analysis prior to construction or demolition. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). A determination of effect under both NEPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>



**TABLE 9-218: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NHPA</i>: Both the Valley Loop Trail and Slaughterhouse Meadow are contributors to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail could alter this historic resource. Any sections of Valley Loop Trail that would be rerouted would require additional analysis prior to construction or demolition. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The alteration of the Valley Loop Trail would alter a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, potentially resulting in the diminishment of the district's integrity. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Removal of Stoneman Bridge, redesign of Sentinel intersection, removal of the Ahwahnee and Sugar Pine Bridges, and restoration to natural conditions would remove contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Bridges and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA</i>: The demolition and removal of Stoneman, Ahwahnee, and Sugar Pine Bridges would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. The loss of the bridges would result in the loss of nearly half of the contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. This would also result in the loss of several of the major Merced River crossings affecting the integrity of the historic circulation patterns in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would be implemented with either the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed actions would result in a major, segment-wide term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges</p>

**TABLE 9-218: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				Historic District and a moderate, long term, segment-wide, adverse impact the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.  <i>NHPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Stoneman, Ahwahnee, and Sugar Pine Bridges would result in the loss of nearly half of the contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would be implemented with either the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will result in the loss of contributing resources to both the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Bridges Historic Districts. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA.
<b>Cultural Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (NPS 1995) would result in an beneficial impact to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts.	Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).  <i>NEPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The stabilization of the building within the would result in a long term, moderate, local, beneficial impact to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA.  <i>NHPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The action will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.

**Programmatic Management Actions.** Programmatic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2 would result in long term, moderate, local, adverse impact to both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Ahwahnee Row Housing and Tecoya Housing buildings, and an adverse effect on both districts under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Biological Resource Actions.** Biological resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2 would result in minor or moderate, local, long term adverse impacts on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Stoneman Meadow, Southside Drive, Boys Town, Valley Loop Trail, and Slaughterhouse Meadow, and adverse effects to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions.** Hydrologic/geologic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2 would result in a major, long term, local, adverse impact on both the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Sugar Pine Bridge, Ahwahnee Bridge, Stoneman Bridge. No NHL would be affected.

**Cultural Resource Actions.** Cultural resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2 would result in a moderate, long term, local, beneficial impact on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA, and no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA through impacts resulting from the stabilization of the contributing resource of the Superintendent's House. No NHL would be affected.

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-219 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 2 under Alternative 2.

**Curry Village.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Curry Village area would include the replacement of 90 tent cabins and 14 cabins without baths in Boys Town with 78 new hard-sided units. Programmatic actions to manage visitor use and facilities include the removal and ecological restoration of the Curry Village Stables and the redesign of the Curry Orchard Parking area. As described in table 9-219 below, actions to remove housing would result in a long term, local, major adverse impact to both the Camp Curry Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and actions to remove the stables and redesign the parking area would result in a long term, major, local, adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. These actions would result in an adverse effect under NHPA.

**Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 areas would include the conversion of Yosemite Lodge from lodging to day use, which would include the redesign of parking areas, removal of existing buildings and facilities, conversion of Highland Court area to walk-in campground, construction of new employee housing, and repurposing of existing buildings. As described in table 9-219 below, Yosemite Lodge was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it

**TABLE 9-2-19: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p>The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and camping at Upper Pines. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>
<b>Curry Village</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The replacement of 90 tent cabins and 14 cabins without baths in Boys Town with 78 new hard-sided units (duplex/fourplex) would remove all 73 contributing historic canvas tent cabins (5 to be relocated), 14 (of 16) contributing historic bungalows.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The tents are contributors due to their style and distribution over the landscape as they contribute to the historic character of the district. While contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the 16 Boys Town employee tents (and 73 Camp Curry Employee Canvas Cabins) on the north side of the road do not create an important space in the overall organization of the Camp Curry developed area, although it does possess its own, distinctive character (NPS 2006d).</p>

**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA:</i> The removal of tent cabins and cabins from Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of these buildings would alter the historic setting of Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of the cabins would result in the loss of 14 of 302 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and 73 of the over 600 contributing structures (of 902 total contributing resources). Mitigation will be consistent with that proposed in the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard MOA, including updating the National Register Nomination forms for both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District to reflect changes to the districts, landscape and architectural documentation of Curry Village, salvage of materials where ever possible, and the preparation of interpretive materials. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, major adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of tent cabins and cabins from Boys Town would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of the cabins would result in the loss of 14 of 302 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and 73 of the over 600 contributing structures (of 902 total contributing resources). This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan as well as the Historic Preservation Treatment Procedures outlined in Appendix J. Mitigation will be consistent with that proposed in the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard MOA, including updating the National Register Nomination forms for both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District to reflect changes to the districts, landscape and architectural documentation of Curry Village, salvage of materials where ever possible, and the preparation of interpretive materials. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The re-design of the Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area and extension of the boardwalk through to Curry Village would result in the removal of historic trees and alteration of a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). In 1927, the Park addressed a growing problem with parking by converting a nearby apple orchard into a unique parking area for Curry Village. Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Camp Curry Historic District (NPS 2006d; Hart, 1979).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> Efforts to redesign parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would affect a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> Efforts to redesign parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would alter a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Ecologically restoring the Curry Village Stables area and removal of associated housing would result in removal of the following historic buildings and structures: Concessioner Stables Office, Horse Stable, Mule Barn, Linen Building, Tack Building, Harness Shop, Blacksmith Shop, Comfort Station, Pony Tack Shed #1 and #2, Employee Residence, Employee Cabins (5), Corral, Feeders, and Fence.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. In 1927, the massive stable complex known as Kenneyville was removed to make way for the Ahwahnee Hotel, and a new, smaller stable complex was built to replace it. Now located farther east near the Lamon Orchard, today Kenneyville stables (or Concessioner stables) includes a mule barn, horse stable, five associated support buildings, six employee housing units and a comfort station. With the corrals and fencing through the complex, the cluster remains with good integrity (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The removal of the concessioner stables and associated buildings would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the removal of 16 contributing buildings out of 302 contributing buildings, and 3 contributing sites out of 611 contributing sites, within the district (with 929 total contributing resources). The concessioner stables are the only contributing historic stables within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of these buildings would result in a clearly detectable change Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would comply with the guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, moderate, local, adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of the concessioner stables and associated buildings would have the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the removal of the only contributing historic stables within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The removal of the stables would result in the diminishment of the integrity of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would comply with the guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Removal of the Concessioner Headquarters Building would result in the loss of a contributing element to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Concessioner Headquarters Building is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Yosemite Village Historic District (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The Concessioner Headquarters Building is a contributor to both the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. This building reflects the rustic architecture characteristic of Yosemite Village area, and its loss would result in an effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District. While the action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan, the proposed action would result in a moderate, long term, local, adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The Concessioner Headquarters Building is a contributor to both the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. This building reflects the rustic architecture characteristic of Yosemite Village area, and its loss would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would comply guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The loss of this contributing resource to a historic district would result in an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	The Ahwahnee Hotel (1977000149: NHL); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159);	Retaining the existing facilities and services, including bar and food service, dining room, gift shop, and sweet shop would not affect the Ahwahnee Hotel Removal of the non-contributing pool would not affect the Ahwahnee Hotel.	<p>The Ahwahnee, because of its architectural design and pristine condition, is among the most significant park hotels in the country. Its rustic style was designed to reflect its environment, and its significance lies with the preservation of the building and its setting. The pool is a non-contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the National Register listed Ahwahnee Hotel, and the National Historic Landmark Ahwahnee Hotel (Harrison 1977; NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The pool is a non-contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the National Register listed Ahwahnee Hotel, and the National</p>



**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>Historic Landmark Ahwahnee Hotel. The proposed action would result in no impact to the Ahwahnee Hotel under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The pool is a non-contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the National Register listed Ahwahnee Hotel, and the National Historic Landmark Ahwahnee Hotel. The proposed action would result in no adverse effect to the Ahwahnee Hotel under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Housekeeping Camp	Removal of all lodging units at Housekeeping Camp would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	<p>The Housekeeping Camp area developed after 1942, and consists of closely sited, rustic cinderblock and canvas tent cabins. Service buildings include a camp store and laundry and shower facilities, all built after 1942. This area has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource.</p> <p>The removal of all lodging units at Housekeeping Camp from within the 100-year floodplain could affect historic resources. Housekeeping Camp has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. Removal of the facilities in these locations would potentially result in an adverse effect. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage to the NPS housing area and restoration of the area to natural conditions would result in an adverse effect to a	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p>

**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)			contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. This will occur in addition to the rehabilitation actions described above.	<p><i>NEPA:</i> The relocation of the Superintendent’s House and garage from its historic location has the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of a building from its historic location results in the loss of historic contextual setting, and can result in the delisting of the resource from the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent’s House and garage to a new location has the potential to alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The relocation of a buildings within the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts would result in a long term, major, local, adverse impact.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The relocation of the Superintendent’s House and garage from its isolated historic location would alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of the buildings would result in the loss of historical setting of the resource, resulting in the building no longer being eligible for the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent’s House and garage to a new location would alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Lodge	The removal of buildings in the Yosemite Lodge complex from the 100-year floodplain has the potential to affect historic resources in the Yosemite Lodge area.	<p>In 1956, the Yosemite Lodge was completely rebuilt and most of the old lodge buildings were demolished. The Yosemite Lodge is almost entirely the product of postwar planning and construction, but has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>The removal of existing buildings in the Yosemite Lodge and repurposing of the site as a day use area could adversely affect historic resources. Yosemite Lodge has not been evaluated for NR eligibility as a Mission 66 resource. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to</p>

**TABLE 9-219: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.

has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic properties for the National Register, and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning. Impacts to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the construction of new facilities within the district would result in a minor, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect under NHPA.

**Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp.** Actions in the Yosemite Village area include the relocation and formalization of the parking lot and re-routing Northside Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, and the relocation of the Superintendent’s House and ecological restoration of the area. As described in table 9-219 above, these actions would have a minor to moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

No actions to protect and enhance river values within Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 2 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-220 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 2.

Actions to protect and enhance river values in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 2 would result in negligible, long term, local adverse impacts on historic resources in El Portal under NEPA.

### **Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

No actions to protect and enhance river values manage Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 under Alternative 2 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of these actions would affect the character defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-221 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 5, 6, 7 and 8 under Alternative 2.

**TABLE 9-220: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 4	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal	The construction of additional concessioner housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of potential historic resources in El Portal.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. In 1961 the National Park Service began building housing in Rancheria Flat, west of El Portal as part of the Mission 66 initiative in the National Park Service. The Rancheria Mission 66 area has been recommended as a historic district as part of a historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in El Portal, but has not yet received SHPO concurrence (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The construction of new housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area and any potential historic resources not currently eligible or listed by the Park. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to confirm eligibility before forwarding to the SHPOs office for review and concurrence.</p>

**TABLE 9-221: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Pioneer Yosemite History Center; Wawona Hotel and Pavilion District; Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio National Historic Landmark	The closure of the stables in Wawona, along with the removal of the Wawona Golf Course, would affect contributors to the NR Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District or Wawona Hotel and Pioneer Yosemite History Center.	<p>The Wawona Hotel and Pavilion’s architectural importance to American architecture is as the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity (Criterion C). The Wawona Golf Course, in operation since 1918 and golf course is not currently identified as a contributing resource as identified into either the Wawona Hotel Complex Cultural Landscape Report completed in 2012. A Cultural Landscape Inventory completed for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center includes the Wawona Stables as a contributing resource.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables and removal golf course would alter both the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District. The golf course and Wawona Meadow are parts of the historic setting and landscape of the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion and contribute to its aesthetic and significance. The removal of the golf course would result in a beneficial impact through the restoration of an earlier configuration of the historic Wawona Meadow. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground., but would also affect the historic setting of the Wawona Hotel and Thomas Hill Studio National Historic Landmark. A DOE is currently underway through a Cultural Landscape Inventory for the region. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The actions would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse effect to the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and a long term, local, minor adverse effect Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NEPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-221: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7 (cont.)				<p><i>NHPA</i>: The closure of the Wawona stables and removal golf course would alter both the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District. The golf course and Wawona Meadow are parts of the historic setting and landscape of the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion and contribute to its aesthetic and significance. The removal of the golf course would result in a beneficial impact through the restoration of an earlier configuration of the historic Wawona Meadow. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The actions would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would have an adverse effect on the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and no adverse effect on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center under /NHPA.</p>

Actions to protect and enhance river values in Segments 5, 6, 7 and 8 under Alternative 2 would result in moderate, long term, local adverse impacts on the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and a negligible, local, adverse effect on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NEPA, and an adverse effect on the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and no adverse effect on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center under /NHPA.

### **Summary of Impacts from Alternative 2: Self-Reliant Visitor Experiences and Extensive Floodplain Restoration**

Some of the management actions proposed under Alternative 2 would affect known historic resources through demolition, alteration, and relocation related to restoration, construction, and facilities removal. Identified historic resources that would be affected by Alternative 2 include the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp, Camp Curry Historic District, the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, the Yosemite Village Historic District, and the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District. **Table 9-222** summarizes the impacts to these historic resources. These impacts would include altering character-defining features or historic context, or potentially demolishing National Register-listed or eligible resources. These actions could have long-term, negligible to major adverse effects on individual historic buildings and sites, and minor to moderate impacts on historic districts under NEPA. The proposed demolition of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District would result in an adverse effect under NHPA, and alteration of contributing resources to the Yosemite Valley, Yosemite Village, Yosemite Bridges, and Camp Curry Historic Districts would potentially diminish the integrity of these resources, resulting in an adverse effect under NHPA.

### **Cumulative Impacts from Alternative 2: Self-Reliant Visitor Experiences and Extensive Floodplain Restoration**

#### ***Past Actions***

Past actions have resulted in a range of beneficial and adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts of past actions include extensive actions to preserve and maintain historic resources, including the Camp Curry Historic District (Curry Village Registration Building, Guest Lounge and Amphitheater Rehabilitation), as well as restoration of meadows associated with the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's Meadow). Adverse effects include the removal of the NR eligible Cascades area houses.

#### ***Present Actions***

Present actions contribute to a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts. These impacts include efforts to restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee NHL while completing long-term rehabilitation of the building and associated features, construction of the Wawona fire station, Camp 4 relocating eight campsites, and the Ahwahnee Hotel Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence project. Additionally, the park has established the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone, which has resulted in the loss of historic structures. These structures are being documented under a separate MOA.



**TABLE 9-222: IMPACT SUMMARY TO HISTORIC RESOURCES UNDER ALTERNATIVE 2**

Historic District	Types of Impacts	Overall Impact Summary (NEPA)	Overall Impact Summary (NHPA)
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	Demolition of contributing resources and potential delisting of the district	long term, major, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Camp Curry Historic District	Demolition of contributing buildings.	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
NR Ahwahnee Hotel	Removal of contributing resources, addition of new facilities	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Camp 4	Construction of additional campsites, parking, and facilities	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads and trails, removal of historic buildings and facilities, construction of new buildings and facilities,	long term, moderate or major, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District	Demolition of historic bridges	long term, major, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Village Historic District	Relocation and removal of historic buildings	long term, moderate or major, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District	Removal of contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Pioneer Yosemite History Center	Closure of operations at a contributing site	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect

### *Future Actions*

Impacts from future actions would be similar to those discussed for past and present actions as a mix of beneficial and adverse impacts to historic resources. The Curry Village Rehabilitation of Historic Cabins with Bath Structures, seismic upgrade to the Ahwahnee Dormitory, and efforts to stabilize the floor of the Ahwahnee Hotel, all consist of potential future actions with the potential to affect historic resources within the park.

### *Overall Cumulative Impact*

Alternative 2 would involve the demolition or alteration of several historic properties (Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District, Camp Curry Historic District, Yosemite Village Historic District, and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District). Additionally, actions common to Alternatives 2–6 would involve the relocation or alteration of several National Register-eligible or listed structures (the NR Ahwahnee Hotel, Superintendent’s House [Residence 1], Camp Curry Historic District, and Camp 4 ). The removal of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District, relocation of the Superintendent’s House, loss of nearly half of the contributing bridges of the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, and the loss of resources in the Curry Village Area of the Yosemite Valley Historic District would potentially result in a long-term, major, adverse impact on both the individual cultural resources and

the cumulative historic fabric of the Merced River corridor. While all site-specific planning and compliance actions would be accomplished in accordance with stipulations in the park's proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation, the potential effect on the character-defining features of historic resources within the Merced River corridor would result in a cumulative adverse effect on historic resources.

### ***Environmental Consequences of Alternative 3: Dispersed Visitor Experiences and Extensive Riverbank Restoration***

#### **All River Segments**

##### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values across all segments under Alternative 3 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

##### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

No actions to manage visitor use and facilities across all segments under Alternative 3 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

##### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values within Segment 1 under Alternative 3 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of these actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

##### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-223 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 3.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 3 would result in a major, long term, local adverse impact on the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NEPA and an adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA through the removal and delisting the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District from the National Register. No NHL would be affected.

**TABLE 9-223: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 1 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 1	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	The conversion of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp to a temporary pack camp and removal of the infrastructure would adversely affect contributors to the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District.	<p>The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is considered significant in recreation and education as one of seven high country camps whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the National Park Service. The Yosemite camp system initially began in 1916 as an effort to attract people into the park's high country. Through the use of organized parties guided by a Yosemite naturalist, the Park Service established a unique pattern of interpretive service in the high country of one of the most populous national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the agency in all natural areas of the system (Criterion A, association with historic events) (Kirk, 2004).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The alteration or removal of historic period buildings and structures in the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp area would greatly alter the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District to the point of delisting the district from the National Register. The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. The removal of contributing resources of an eligible historic district represents a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features and the permanent alteration of the historic setting and character of the segment. While the action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), the proposed action would result in a major, long term, local adverse impact on the district under NEPA and potential delisting of the district.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The alteration or removal of historic period buildings and structures in the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp area would greatly alter the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District to the point of delisting the district from the National Register. The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. The removal of contributing resources of an eligible historic district represents a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features and the permanent alteration of the historic setting and character of the segment. The action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in an adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA and potential delisting of the district.</p>

## **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Table 9-224 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 3.

**Biological Resource Actions.** Biological resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 3 would result in moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Southside Drive, Boys Town, Valley Loop Trail, and Slaughterhouse Meadow, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions.** Hydrologic/geologic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 3 would result in major, long term, local, adverse impacts on both the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Sugar Pine Bridge, Ahwahnee Bridge, Stoneman Bridge, and an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Cultural Resource Actions.** Cultural resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 3 would result in a moderate, long term, local, beneficial impact on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA, and no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA through impacts resulting from the stabilization of the contributing resource of the Superintendent's House. No NHL would be affected.

### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-225 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 2 under Alternative 3.

**Curry Village.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Curry Village area would include the re design of the Curry Orchard parking area, and rerouting Southside Drive through Boys Town. Programmatic actions to manage visitor use and facilities include the reduction of the Curry Village Stables. As described in Table 9-225 below, actions to remove housing, reduce the stables, reroute Southside Drive, and alter the Curry Orchard Parking area would result in a long term, local, moderate to minor adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. These actions would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alterations to contributing historic properties under NHPA.

**Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 areas would include alterations to Yosemite Lodge, such as the redesign of parking areas, removal of existing buildings and facilities, construction of new employee housing, and repurposing of existing buildings. As described in table 9-225 below, Yosemite Lodge was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic

**TABLE 9-224: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The restoration of Stoneman Meadow including the re-alignment of Southside Drive would affect historic circulation patterns in the Curry Village Area of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would, however, improve Stoneman Meadow, another contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The historic circulation of Camp Curry is predominantly pedestrian, with vehicular approaches from the west (Old Village) and northwest (Stoneman Bridge). Today vehicular access is limited mainly to the northwestern approach, and the western approach has been converted to parking and foot trail. Since the original entry was oriented to this entrance, the historic gateway has become somewhat obsolete, at least in the current circulation configuration. Stoneman Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley, as is Southside Drive (NPS 2006d). Southside Drive is not considered a contributor to the Camp Curry Historic District (Hart, 1979).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns in Curry Village and in the Valley. The action will not, however, result in an adverse impact to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, which is the focus of remaining historic vehicular circulation. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Southside Drive, in an area not out of character with its existing route. Additionally, the restoration of Stoneman Meadow to a more historic setting would have a beneficial impact on the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Finally, the action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-224: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NHPA</i>: The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District through changes to historic circulation patterns. As described above, the action will not result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, but would alter Southside Drive, a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The restoration of Stoneman Meadow to a more historic setting would improve the condition of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. These actions would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed actions would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail through Slaughterhouse Meadow has the potential to affect both these contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Valley Loop Trail is one of the primary trails originating in the valley. The Valley Loop Trail dates from the 1920s and was originally built as a bridle trail, generally aligned along existing circulation routes. Thirteen additional miles were added to the Valley Loop Trail in 1928, requiring the construction of 14 bridges. Today, the Valley Loop Trail includes the entire remaining bridle trail system in the valley and it is approximately 2.1 miles long (Criterion A). The Slaughterhouse Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>Both the Valley Loop Trail and Slaughterhouse meadow are contributors to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail could alter both of these resources. Any sections of Valley Loop Trail that would be rerouted would require additional analysis prior to construction or demolition. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>

**TABLE 9-224: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Removal of Stoneman Bridge, redesign of Sentinel intersection, removal of the Ahwahnee and Sugar Pine Bridges, and restoration to natural conditions would remove contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Bridges and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Stoneman, Ahwahnee, and Sugar Pine Bridges would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. The loss of the bridges would result in the loss of nearly half of the contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. This would also result in the loss of several of the major Merced River crossings within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would be implemented with either the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed actions would result in a major, long term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Stoneman, Ahwahnee, and Sugar Pine Bridges would result in the loss of nearly half of the contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would be implemented with either the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will result in the loss of contributing resources to both the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Bridges Historic Districts. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA. This action would comply guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The removal of Stoneman Bridge would diminish the integrity of the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic Districts.</p>

**TABLE 9-224: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Cultural Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (NPS 1995) would result in a beneficial impact to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The rehabilitation of the building within the would result in a long term, moderate, local, beneficial impact to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The action will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>



**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p>The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and camping at Upper Pines. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>
<b>Curry Village</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The re-design of the Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area and extension of the boardwalk through to Curry Village would result in the removal of historic trees and alteration of a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). In 1927, the Park addressed a growing problem with parking by converting a nearby apple orchard into a unique parking area for Curry Village. Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Camp Curry Historic District (NPS 2006d; Hart, 1979).</p>

**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>Efforts to redesign parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would affect historic trees in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p>Efforts to redesign parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would alter a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The rerouting of Southside Drive through Boys Town and the restoration of the remaining area would affect the historic circulation of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The historic circulation of Camp Curry is predominantly pedestrian paths, with vehicular approaches from the west (Old Village) and northwest (Stoneman Bridge). Today vehicular access is limited mainly to the northwestern approach, and the western approach has been converted to parking and foot trail. Since the original entry was oriented to this entrance, the historic gateway has become somewhat obsolete, at least in the current circulation configuration (NPS 2006d). Southside Drive is not considered a contributor to the Camp Curry Historic District.</p>

**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><b>NEPA:</b> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns in Curry Village and in the Valley. The action will not, however, result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, which is the focus of remaining historic vehicular circulation. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Southside Drive, in an area not out of character with its existing route. The proposed action does have the potential to affect historic pedestrian circulation patterns through rerouting of pedestrian paths, but this again constitutes a small portion of the total length of pedestrian paths in the Curry Village area. The action would comply with the guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><b>NHPA:</b> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would alter the integrity of the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns and alteration of a contributing resource to a historic district. As described above, the action will not result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Reduction of the footprint of the Curry Village Stables to provide staging for temporary pack camp operation at Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and overflow parking for campgrounds, eliminating commercial day rides, would affect a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. In 1927, the massive stable complex known as Kenneyville was removed to make way for the Ahwahnee Hotel, and a new, smaller stable complex was built to replace it. Now located farther east near the Lamon Orchard, today Kenneyville stables (or Concessioner stables) includes a mule barn, horse stable, five associated support buildings, six employee housing units and a comfort station. With the corrals and fencing through the complex, the cluster remains with good integrity

**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>(NPS 2006d). The Curry Village Stables are not considered contributors to the Curry Village Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The reduction of the footprint of the Curry Village Stables would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the alteration of the setting of contributing resources. The reduction of size of the stables would not result in the loss of any contributing structures associated with the stables. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a minor, long term, local adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The reduction of the footprint of the Curry Village Stables would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the change of the setting of contributing resources. The reduction of size of the stables would not result in the loss of any contributing structures associated with the stables. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The relocation and formalization of the parking to the north of the road and re-routing Northside Drive south of the parking at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area would affect historic circulation patterns in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Northside and Southside drives create a framework for circulation around the valley, on either side of the Merced River, and are contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The re-routing of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite</p>

**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The realignment of Northside Drive would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District through changes to historic circulation patterns and alteration of a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Northside Drive), although The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action will alter a contributing resource to a NR historic district. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Relocation of the Superintendent's House to the NPS housing area and restoration of the area to natural conditions would result in an adverse effect to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. This will occur in addition to the rehabilitation actions described above.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The relocation of the Superintendent's House from its historic location has the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of a building from its historic location results in the loss of historic contextual setting, and can result in the delisting of the resource from the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent's House to a new location has the potential to alter the setting of historic</p>

**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>resources in that location as well. The relocation of a building within the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts would result in a long term, major, local, adverse impact under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA</i>: The relocation of the Superintendent's House from its isolated historic location would alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of the building would result in the loss of historical setting of the resource, resulting in the building no longer being eligible for the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent's House to a new location would alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Housekeeping Camp	Removal of all lodging units at Housekeeping Camp would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	<p>The Housekeeping Camp area developed after 1942, and consists of closely sited, rustic cinderblock and canvas tent cabins. Service buildings include a camp store and laundry and shower facilities, all built after 1942. This area has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource.</p> <p>The removal of all lodging units at Housekeeping Camp from within the 100-year floodplain could affect historic resources. Housekeeping Camp has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>

**TABLE 9-225: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p>The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and camping at Upper Pines. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Lodge; Yosemite Valley Historic District	The removal of buildings in the Yosemite Lodge complex from the 100-year floodplain has the potential to affect historic resources in the Yosemite Lodge area.	<p>In 1956, the Yosemite Lodge was completely rebuilt and most of the old lodge buildings were demolished. The Yosemite Lodge is almost entirely the product of postwar planning and construction, but has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>The removal of existing buildings in the Yosemite Lodge area could adversely affect historic resources. Yosemite Lodge has not been evaluated for NR eligibility as a Mission 66 resource. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.</p>

properties for the National Register, and A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning. Impacts to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the construction of new facilities within the district would result in a minor, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.

**Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp.** Actions in the Yosemite Village area include the relocation and formalization of the parking lot and re-routing Northside Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, relocation of the Superintendent’s House and ecological restoration of the area, and removal of facilities from Housekeeping Camp. As described in table 9-225 above, these actions would have a minor to moderate, local, long term adverse impact to the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

No actions intended to protect and enhance river values under Alternative 3 in Segments 3 and 4 are anticipated to result in an adverse effect on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-226 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 3.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities values in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 3 would result in negligible, long term, local adverse impacts on historic resources under NEPA in El Portal. No NHL would be affected.

### **Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

No actions intended to manage protect and enhance river values under Alternative 3 and Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 are anticipated to result in an adverse effect on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”



**TABLE 9-226: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 4	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal	The construction of additional concessioner housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of potential historic resources in El Portal.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. In 1961 the National Park Service began building housing in Rancheria Flat, west of El Portal as part of the Mission 66 initiative in the National Park Service. The Rancheria Mission 66 area has been recommended as a historic district as part of a historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in El Portal, but has not yet received SHPO concurrence (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The construction of new housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area and any potential historic resources not currently eligible or listed by the Park. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to confirm eligibility before forwarding to the SHPOs office for review and concurrence.</p>

### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-227 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 under Alternative 3.

### **Summary of Impacts from Alternative 3: Dispersed Visitor Experiences and Extensive Riverbank Restoration**

Some of the management actions proposed for Alternative 3 could have adverse effects on known historic resources through demolition, alteration, and relocation related to restoration, construction, and facilities removal. Identified historic resources that would be affected by Alternative 3 include the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp, Camp Curry Historic District, the Yosemite Valley Historic District, Camp 4, the Ahwahnee Hotel, the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District. Table 9-228 summarizes the impacts to these historic resources. These actions could have long-term, minor to moderate adverse effects on individual historic buildings and sites, and moderate to major adverse effects on historic districts under NEPA. The proposed demolition of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District would result in an adverse effect under NHPA, and actions resulting in the alteration of contributing resources to the Camp Curry Village, Yosemite Bridges, or the Yosemite Valley Historic Districts would diminish the integrity of these districts and result in an adverse effect under NHPA.

### **Cumulative Impacts from Alternative 3: Dispersed Visitor Experiences and Extensive Riverbank Restoration**

#### ***Past Actions***

Past actions have resulted in a range of beneficial and adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts of past actions include extensive actions to preserve and maintain historic resources, including the Camp Curry Historic District (Curry Village Registration Building, Guest Lounge and Amphitheater Rehabilitation), as well as restoration of meadows associated with the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's Meadow). Adverse effects include the removal of the NR eligible Cascades area houses.

#### ***Present Actions***

Present actions contribute to a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts. These impacts include efforts to restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee NHL while completing long-term rehabilitation of the building and associated features, construction of the Wawona fire station, Camp 4 relocating eight campsites, and the Ahwahnee Hotel Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence project. Additionally, the park has established the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone, which has resulted in the loss of historic structures. These structures are being documented under a separate MOA.

**TABLE 9-227: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Wawona Hotel and Pavilion	The removal of the tennis courts would affect potential contributors to the National Register Wawona Hotel and Pavilion District.	<p>The Wawona Hotel and Pavilion's architectural importance to American architecture is as the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity (Criterion C).</p> <p>The removal of the Wawona tennis courts would potentially affect the NR WHPHD. The Wawona tennis courts have not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource, either contributing or individually. Removal of facilities in this location would result in a potentially adverse effect. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), without this above described analysis. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>
Segment 7	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Wawona	The closure of the stables in Wawona, along with the removal of the Wawona Golf Course, would affect contributors to the NR Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and Pioneer Yosemite History Center.	<p>The Wawona Hotel and Pavilion's architectural importance to American architecture is as the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity (Criterion C). The Wawona Golf Course, in operation since 1918 and a contributing resource as identified in the Wawona Hotel Complex Cultural Landscape Report completed in 2012. A Cultural Landscape Inventory completed for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center includes the Wawona Stables as a contributing resource.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables and removal golf course would alter both the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District. The golf course and Wawona Meadow are parts of the historic setting and landscape of the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion and contribute to its aesthetic and significance. The removal of the golf course would result in a beneficial impact through</p>

**TABLE 9-227: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7 (cont.)				<p>the restoration of an earlier configuration of the historic Wawona Meadow. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The actions would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse effect to the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and a long term, local, minor adverse effect Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables and removal golf course would alter both the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District. The golf course and Wawona Meadow are parts of the historic setting and landscape of the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion and contribute to its aesthetic and significance. The removal of the golf course would result in a beneficial impact through the restoration of an earlier configuration of the historic Wawona Meadow. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The actions would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will result in the diminishment of integrity of the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and would have an adverse effect on the Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District and no adverse effect on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NHPA. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation</p>

**TABLE 9-228: IMPACT SUMMARY TO HISTORIC RESOURCES UNDER ALTERNATIVE 3**

Historic District	Types of Impacts	Overall Impact Summary (NEPA)	Overall Impact Summary (NHPA)
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	Removal of contributing buildings and potential delisting of the district	Long term, major, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
NR Ahwahnee Hotel	Removal of contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Camp 4	construction of additional campsites, parking, and facilities	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Camp Curry Historic District	Demolition of contributing buildings.	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads and trails, removal of historic buildings and facilities, construction of new buildings and facilities,	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District	Demolition of historic bridges	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Village Historic District	Removal of contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District	Removal of potential contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Pioneer Yosemite History Center	Closure of operations at a contributing site	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect

### *Future Actions*

Impacts from future actions would be similar to those discussed for past and present actions as a mix of beneficial and adverse impacts to historic resources. The Curry Village Rehabilitation of Historic Cabins with Bath Structures, seismic upgrade to the Ahwahnee Dormitory, and efforts to stabilize the floor of the Ahwahnee Hotel, all consist of potential future actions with the potential to affect historic resources within the park.

### *Overall Cumulative Impact*

Alternative 3 would involve the demolition or alteration of several National Register-eligible, listed, or National Register structures (Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District, Wawona Hotel and Pavilion Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District). Additionally, actions common to Alternatives 2–6 would involve the relocation or alteration of several National Register-eligible or listed structures (the NR Ahwahnee Hotel, Superintendent’s House [Residence 1], Camp Curry Historic District, and Camp 4 ). The alteration or removal of these resources would potentially result in a long-term, moderate, adverse impact on both the individual resources and the cumulative historic fabric of the Merced River corridor. While all site-specific planning and compliance actions would be accomplished in accordance with stipulations in the park’s proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement, the potential effect on the character-defining features of historic resources within the Merced River corridor would result in a long-term, moderate, adverse cumulative impact on historic resources.

## ***Environmental Consequences of Alternative 4: Resource-Based Visitor Experiences and Targeted Riverbank Restoration***

### **All River Segments**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values across all river segments under Alternative 4 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

No actions to manage visitor use and facilities across all river segments under Alternative 4 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values within Segment 1 under Alternative 4 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of these actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-229 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 4.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 4 would result in a major, long term, local adverse impact on the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District (Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District) under NEPA and an adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA through the potential removal and delisting the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District from the National Register. No NHL would be affected.

### **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Table 9-230 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 4.

**TABLE 9-229: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 1 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 1	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	The closure of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp conversion of the site to its natural condition would adversely affect the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District.	<p>The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is considered significant in recreation and education as one of seven high country camps whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the National Park Service. The Yosemite camp system initially began in 1916 as an effort to attract people into the park's high country. Through the use of organized parties guided by a Yosemite naturalist, the Park Service established a unique pattern of interpretive service in the high country of one of the most populous national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the agency in all natural areas of the system (Criterion A, association with historic events) (Kirk, 2004).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The alteration or removal of historic period buildings and structures in the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp area would greatly alter the district to the point of delisting the district from the National Register consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation) local adverse impact. The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. The removal of contributing resources of an eligible historic district represents a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features and the permanent alteration of the historic setting and character of the segment. While the action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), the proposed action would result in a major, long term, local adverse impact on the district under NEPA and potential delisting of the district.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The alteration or removal of historic period buildings and structures in the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp area would greatly alter the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District to the point of delisting the district from the National Register. The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. The removal of contributing resources of an eligible historic district represents a substantial and highly noticeable change in character-defining features and the permanent alteration of the historic setting and character of the segment. The action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action would result in an adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA and potential delisting of the district.</p>

**TABLE 9-230: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Restoration of El Captain Meadow would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. The El Captain Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The restoration of the meadow to its historic setting would result in a long term, local, beneficial effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The restoration of the meadow would improve the condition of a resource and would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The restoration of Stoneman Meadow including the re-alignment of Southside Drive would affect historic circulation patterns in the Curry Village Area of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would, however, improve Stoneman Meadow, another contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The historic circulation of Camp Curry is predominantly pedestrian, with vehicular approaches from the west (Old Village) and northwest (Stoneman Bridge). Today vehicular access is limited mainly to the northwestern approach, and the western approach has been converted to parking and foot trail. Since the original entry was oriented to this entrance, the historic gateway has become somewhat obsolete, at least in the current circulation configuration. Stoneman Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley, as is Southside Drive (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns in Curry Village and in the Valley. The action will not,</p>



**TABLE 9-230: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>however, result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, which is the focus of remaining historic vehicular circulation. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Southside Drive, in an area not out of character with its existing route. Additionally, the restoration of Stoneman Meadow to a more historic setting would have a beneficial effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Finally, the action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District through changes to historic circulation patterns. As described above, the action will not result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, but would alter Southside Drive, a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The restoration of Stoneman Meadow to a more historic setting would improve the condition of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail through Slaughterhouse and Bridalveil Meadows has the potential to affect these contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Valley Loop Trail is one of the primary trails originating in the valley. The Valley Loop Trail dates from the 1920s and was originally built as a bridle trail, generally aligned along existing circulation routes. Thirteen additional miles were added to the Valley Loop Trail in 1928, requiring the construction of 14 bridges. Today, the Valley Loop Trail includes the entire remaining bridle trail system in the valley and it is approximately 21 miles long (Criterion A). The Slaughterhouse Meadow</p>

**TABLE 9-230: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>The Valley Loop Trail, Bridalveil and Slaughterhouse meadows are contributors to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail could alter both of these resources. Any sections of Valley Loop Trail that would be rerouted would require additional analysis prior to construction or demolition. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), but without the above described analysis. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160), Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	In order to address river flow concerns, Stoneman Bridge would be left in place, but engineer solutions, such as installation of large wood or culverts to Northside Drive, would be installed. This would result in an effect to a contributing structure to these historic districts.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of Non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The installation of engineered solutions in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge may alter the historic setting of a contributor to the historic Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District. If culverts were installed in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge, the culverts would be installed following Yosemite Design Guidelines and mitigation measure HIST-1, and with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation) and should not affect the historic setting of the bridge, resulting in a negligible, long-term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-230: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NHPA:</i> The installation of engineered solutions in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge may alter the historic setting of a contributor to the historic Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District. If culverts were installed in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge, the culverts would be installed following Yosemite Design Guidelines and mitigation measure HIST-1, and should not affect the historic setting of the bridge, resulting in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District or Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District ((1977000160), Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159))	Removal of Ahwahnee and Sugar Pine Bridges and restoration to natural conditions would remove contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Bridges and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of Non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Ahwahnee and Bridge and Sugar Pine would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. The loss of the bridges would result in the loss of nearly a third of the contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Bridges. This would also result in the loss of several of the major Merced River crossings within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed actions would result in a major, long term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Ahwahnee Bridge, in combination with the removal of the Stoneman and Sugar Pine Bridges, would result in the loss of nearly a third of the contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, and would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This action would be taken</p>

**TABLE 9-230: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The demolition of the bridge would result in the loss of a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA.
<b>Cultural Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001 159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (NPS 1995) would result in a beneficial impact to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The rehabilitation of the building within the would result in a long term, moderate, local, beneficial impact to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The action will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>

**Biological Resource Actions.** Biological resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2 would result in moderate, local, long term adverse impacts on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Southside Drive, Boys Town, Stoneman Meadow, Valley Loop Trail, and Slaughterhouse Meadow, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions.** Hydrologic/geologic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 2 would result in major long term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Ahwahnee Bridge and Sugar Pine Bridge, and an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Cultural Resource Actions.** Cultural resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 4 would result in a moderate, long term, local, beneficial impact on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA, and no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA through impacts resulting from the rehabilitation of the contributing resource of the Superintendent's House. No NHL would be affected.

***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-231 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 2 under Alternative 4.

**Curry Village.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Curry Village area would include the redesign of the Curry Orchard parking area, and rerouting Southside Drive through Boys Town and construction of a 40-site campground. As described in table 9-231 below, actions to remove housing, redesign Curry Orchard Parking area, and reroute Southside Drive would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Camp Curry Historic District under NEPA. These actions would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Camp Curry Historic District through alterations to contributing historic properties under NHPA.

**Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 areas would include alterations to Yosemite Lodge, such as the redesign of parking areas, removal of existing buildings and facilities, construction of new employee housing, and repurposing of existing buildings. As described in table 9-231 below, Yosemite Lodge was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic properties for the National Register, and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning, of this action. Impacts to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the construction of new facilities within the district would result in a minor, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.

**TABLE 9-231: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p>The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and camping at Upper Pines and the former Lower River Campground. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>
<b>Curry Village</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The re-design of the Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area and extension of the boardwalk through to Curry Village would result in the removal of historic trees and alteration of a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Associated restoration of Stoneman Meadow would have no affect on this Yosemite Valley Historic District contributor.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). In 1927, the Park addressed a growing problem with parking by converting a nearby apple orchard into a unique parking area for Curry Village. Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Camp Curry Historic District (NPS 2006d; Hart, 1979).</p>

**TABLE 9-231: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA</i>: Efforts to redesign parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would affect historic trees, as well as a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA</i>: Efforts to redesign parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would alter a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The rerouting of Southside Drive through Boys Town, and construction of a 40-site campground is constructed would affect the historic circulation and setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). The historic circulation of Camp Curry is predominantly pedestrian pathways, with vehicular approaches from the west (Old Village) and northwest (Stoneman Bridge). Today vehicular access is limited mainly to the northwestern approach, and the western approach has been converted to parking and foot trail. Since the original entry was oriented to this entrance, the historic gateway has</p>

**TABLE 9-231: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>become somewhat obsolete, at least in the current circulation configuration (NPS 2006d). Southside Drive is not considered a contributor to the Camp Curry Historic District (Hart, 1979).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns in Curry Village and in the Valley. The action will not, however, result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area, which is the focus of remaining historic vehicular circulation. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Southside Drive, in an area not out of character with its existing route. The action does have the potential to alter historic pedestrian circulation through the rerouting of pedestrian paths. The conversion of Boys Town to a campground would also result in the removal of historic tent cabins and structures, altering both the Yosemite Valley and Camp Curry Historic Districts. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action will have a major, local, long term impact effect on the listed Yosemite Valley and Camp Curry Historic Districts under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The realignment of Southside Drive through Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns through impacts to contributing Southside Drive. As described above, however, the action will not result in an adverse effect to the historic approach to the Curry Village area. Additionally, the conversion of Boys Town to a campground would diminish the integrity of both the Yosemite Valley and Camp Curry Historic Districts. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan, or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. This action will result in the alteration of a contributing resource to a NR historic district, and will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>



**TABLE 9-231: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The relocation and formalization of the parking to the north of the road and re-routing Northside Drive south of the parking at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area would affect historic circulation patterns in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Northside and Southside drives create a framework for circulation around the valley, on either side of the Merced River, and are contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The re-routing of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns as well as alteration of a contributing resource (Northside Drive). The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The realignment of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The alteration of a contributing resource would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-231: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage to the NPS housing area and restoration of the area to natural conditions would result in an adverse effect to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. This will occur in addition to the rehabilitation actions described above.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House and garage are contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><b>NEPA:</b> The relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage from its historic location has the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of a building from its historic location results in the loss of historic contextual setting, and can result in the delisting of the resource from the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent's House and garage to a new location has the potential to alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The relocation of a building within the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts would result in a long term, moderate, local, adverse impact.</p> <p><b>NHPA:</b> The relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage from its isolated historic location would alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of the building would result in the loss of historical setting of the resource, resulting in the building no longer being eligible for the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent's House and garage to a new location would alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Housekeeping Camp	Removal of 166 lodging units from the ordinary high water mark at Housekeeping Camp would potentially affect a historic resource.	The Housekeeping Camp area developed after 1942, and consists of closely sited, rustic cinderblock and canvas tent cabins. Service buildings include a camp store and laundry and shower facilities, all built after 1942. This area has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource.

**TABLE 9-231: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>The removal of 166 lodging units (83 duplex lodging units, 4 restrooms, store and office) and other facilities out of the observed ordinary high water mark could affect historic resources. Housekeeping Camp has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement, and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO.</p>
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Lodge; Yosemite Valley Historic District	Construction of new employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or the removal of existing buildings within the flood plain would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	<p>In 1956, the Yosemite Lodge was completely rebuilt and most of the old lodge buildings were demolished. The Yosemite Lodge is almost entirely the product of postwar planning and construction, but has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>The construction of additional employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or removal of existing buildings could affect historic resources, including the Yosemite Valley Historic District. Yosemite Lodge has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. Addition of new facilities or removal of existing buildings in this location potentially would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. While this action would be completed in compliance guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation, without this above described analysis, it is not possible to determine the impact of this action under NEPA/NHPA.</p>

**Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp.** Actions in the Yosemite Village area include the relocation and formalization of the parking lot and re-routing Northside Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, relocation of the Superintendent’s Residence and ecological restoration of the area, and removal of facilities from Housekeeping Camp. As described in table 9-231 above, these actions would have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact to the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Under Alternative 4, actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segments 3 and 4 would not be likely to result in adverse effects on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-232 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 4.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities values in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 4 would result in negligible, long term, local adverse impacts on historic resources under NEPA in El Portal. No NHL would be affected.

### **Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Under Alternative 4, actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 would not be likely result in an adverse effect on historic resources, as they would not involve actions that would impact the character defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to all alternatives are discussed above.

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-233 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 under Alternative 4.

**TABLE 9-232: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 4	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal	The construction of additional concessioner housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of potential historic resources in El Portal.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. In 1961 the National Park Service began building housing in Rancheria Flat, west of El Portal as part of the Mission 66 initiative in the National Park Service. The Rancheria Mission 66 area has been recommended as a historic district as part of a historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in El Portal, but has not yet received SHPO concurrence (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The construction of new housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area and any potential historic resources not currently eligible or listed by the Park. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to confirm eligibility before forwarding to the SHPOs office for review and concurrence.</p>

**TABLE 9-233: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Pioneer Yosemite History Center	The closure of the stables in Wawona would affect contributors to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.	<p>The Wawona Hotel and Pavilion's architectural importance to American architecture is as the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity (Criterion C). A Cultural Landscape Inventory completed for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center includes the Wawona Stables as a contributing resource.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables would alter the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, minor adverse effect Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables would alter the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would have no adverse effect on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NHPA. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation/NHPA</p>

**Summary of Impacts from Alternative 4: Resource-Based Visitor Experiences and Targeted Riverbank Restoration**

Alternative 4 would result in fewer adverse effects on historic resources than under Alternatives 2 and 3; however, some of the management actions proposed with Alternative 4 could adversely affect known historic resources through demolition, alteration, and relocation related to restoration, construction, and facilities removal. Identified historic resources that would be affected by Alternative 4 include the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp, Camp Curry Historic District, NR Ahwahnee Hotel, Camp 4, Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. Table 9-234 summarizes the impacts to these historic resources. These impacts would include altering the character-defining features or historic context, or potentially demolishing National Register-listed resources or eligible resources. These actions could cause long-term, moderate, local, adverse impacts on historic buildings and sites, and minor to moderate adverse impacts on historic districts.

**TABLE 9-234: IMPACT SUMMARY TO HISTORIC RESOURCES UNDER ALTERNATIVE 4**

Historic District	Types of Impacts	Overall Impact Summary (NEPA)	Overall Impact Summary (NHPA)
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	Alteration or removal of contributing buildings	Long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Camp Curry Historic District	Demolition of contributing buildings.	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads and trails, removal of historic buildings and facilities, construction of new buildings and facilities,	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
NR Ahwahnee Hotel	Removal of contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	
Camp 4	construction of additional campsites, parking, and facilities	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Yosemite Village Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads	long term, minor to moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District	Demolition of historic bridges	long term, major, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Pioneer History Center	Closure of operations at a contributing site	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Wawona Hotel and Pavilion District.	Removal of contributing resource	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect

## **Cumulative Impacts from Alternative 4: Resource-Based Visitor Experiences and Targeted Riverbank Restoration**

### ***Past Actions***

Past actions have resulted in a range of beneficial and adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts of past actions include extensive actions to preserve and maintain historic resources, including the Camp Curry Historic District (Curry Village Registration Building, Guest Lounge and Amphitheater Rehabilitation), as well as restoration of meadows associated with the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's Meadow). Adverse effects include the removal of the NR eligible Cascades area houses.

### ***Present Actions***

Present actions contribute to a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts. These impacts include efforts to restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee NHL while completing long-term rehabilitation of the building and associated features, construction of the Wawona fire station, Camp 4 relocating eight campsites, and the Ahwahnee Hotel Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence project. Additionally, the park has established the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone, which has resulted in the loss of historic structures. These structures are being documented under a separate MOA.

### ***Future Actions***

Impacts from future actions would be similar to those discussed for past and present actions as a mix of beneficial and adverse impacts to historic resources. The Curry Village Rehabilitation of Historic Cabins with Bath Structures, seismic upgrade to the Ahwahnee Dormitory, and efforts to stabilize the floor of the Ahwahnee Hotel, all consist of potential future actions with the potential to affect historic resources within the park.

### ***Overall Cumulative Impact***

Alternative 4 would involve the demolition or alteration of several National Register-eligible or -listed structures and historic districts (Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District, Yosemite Valley Historic District, and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District). Additionally, actions common to Alternatives 2–6 would involve the relocation or alteration of several National Register-eligible, listed, or National Historic Landmark structures (the NR Ahwahnee Hotel, Superintendent's House [Residence 1], Camp Curry Historic District, and Camp 4). The alteration or removal of these resources would potentially result in a long-term, moderate, adverse impact on both the individual cultural resources and the cumulative historic fabric of the Merced River corridor. While all site-specific planning and compliance actions would be accomplished in accordance with stipulations in the park's proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement, the potential effect on the character-defining features of historic resources within the river corridor would result in a long-term, moderate adverse cumulative effect on historic resources.



## ***Environmental Consequences of Alternative 5: Enhanced Visitor Experiences and Essential River Bank Restoration***

### **All River Segments**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values across all river segments under Alternative 5 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the Alternative 5 proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

No actions to manage visitor use and facilities across all river segments under Alternative 5 would adversely affect historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Under Alternative 5, actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 1 would not be likely to result in adverse effects on historic resources. None of these actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-235 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 5.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 1 under Alternative 5 would result in a negligible, long term, local adverse impact on the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District (Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District) under NEPA and no adverse effect on Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

### **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Table 9-236 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 5.

TABLE 9-235: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 1 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 1	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	The reduction of the number of beds at the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp to 11 units (of an original 22) would not adversely affect the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District.	<p>The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is considered significant in recreation and education as one of seven high country camps whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the National Park Service. The Yosemite camp system initially began in 1916 as an effort to attract people into the park's high country. Through the use of organized parties guided by a Yosemite naturalist, the Park Service established a unique pattern of interpretive service in the high country of one of the most populous national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the agency in all natural areas of the system (Criterion A) (Kirk, 2004).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. All 22 canvas and frame tents are considered contributors to the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District. No historic buildings would be removed under this alternative, although the number of overnight users would be reduced. The reduction of beds within the district would not result in the diminishment of the integrity of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District. The action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, negligible, local adverse impact on the district under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District is one of the few National Register-eligible resources in Segment 1. All 22 canvas and frame tents are considered contributors to the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District. No historic buildings would be removed under this alternative, although the number of overnight users would be reduced. The reduction of beds within the district would not result in the diminishment of the integrity of the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District. The action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will have no adverse effect on the Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-236: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Restoration of El Captain Meadow would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. The El Captain Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The restoration of the meadow to its historic setting would result in a long term, local, beneficial effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The restoration of the meadow would improve the condition of a resource and would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail, including the construction of boardwalks through sensitive habitat in Slaughterhouse Meadow, has the potential to affect both these contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Valley Loop Trail is one of the primary trails originating in the valley. The Valley Loop Trail dates from the 1920s and was originally built as a bridle trail, generally aligned along existing circulation routes. Thirteen additional miles were added to the Valley Loop Trail in 1928, requiring the construction of 14 bridges. Today, the Valley Loop Trail includes the entire remaining bridle trail system in the valley and it is approximately 21 miles long (Criterion A). The Slaughterhouse Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>Both the Valley Loop Trail and Slaughterhouse meadow are contributors to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail could alter these historic resources. Any sections of Valley Loop Trail that would be rerouted would require additional analysis prior to construction or demolition. The action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>

**TABLE 9-236: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	In order to address river flow concerns, Stoneman Bridge would be left in place, but engineer solutions, such as installation of large wood or culverts to Northside Drive, would be installed. This would result in an effect to a contributing structure to this historic district.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of Non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><b>NEPA:</b> The installation of engineered solutions in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge may alter the historic setting of a contributor to the historic Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District. If culverts were installed in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge, the culverts would be installed following Yosemite Design Guidelines and mitigation measure HIST-1, and guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation) and should not affect the historic setting of the bridge, resulting in a negligible, local, long-term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><b>NHPA:</b> The installation of engineered solutions in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge may alter the historic setting of a contributor to the historic Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District. If culverts were installed in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge, the culverts would be installed following Yosemite Design Guidelines and mitigation measure HIST-1, and should not affect the historic setting of the bridge, resulting in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District or Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160); Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Removal of Sugar Pine Bridge and restoration to natural conditions would remove a contributing structure to the Yosemite Valley Bridges and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of Non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with</p>

**TABLE 9-236: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions (continued)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Sugar Pine Bridge would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. The loss of the bridge would result in the loss of contributing resources in the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. This would also result in the loss of a major Merced River crossing within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed actions would result in a major, long term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The demolition and removal of Sugar Pine Bridge would result in the loss of contributing resources to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The demolition of the bridge would result in the loss of a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA.</p>
<b>Cultural Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House per the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (NPS 1995) would result in a beneficial impact to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the</p>

**TABLE 9-236: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Cultural Resource Actions (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The rehabilitation of the building within the would result in a long term, moderate, local, beneficial impact to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA</i>: The rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House would be undertaken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The action will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>

**Biological Resource Actions.** Biological resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 5 would result in moderate, long term, local, beneficial impact on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. Through actions to restore contributing meadows, but impacts to the contributing resource of Valley Loop Trail would require additional analysis prior to determination of effect. Restoration of the meadows would result in no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions.** Hydrologic/geologic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 5 would result in major, long term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through removal of the contributing resource of Sugar Pine Bridge, and an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Cultural Resource Actions.** Cultural resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 5 would result in a moderate, long term, local, beneficial impact on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA, and no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA through impacts resulting from the rehabilitation of the contributing resource of the Superintendent's House. No NHL would be affected.

*Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-237 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 2 under Alternative 5.

**Curry Village.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Curry Village area would include the replacement of 90 tent cabins and 14 cabins without baths in Boys Town with 98 new hard-sided units, and redesign of the Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area. As described in table 9-237 actions to remove housing, alter parking, redesign of Curry Orchard Parking area, and reroute Southside Drive would result in a long term, local, major adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA. These actions would result in an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alterations to contributing historic properties under NHPA.

**Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 areas would include alterations to Yosemite Lodge, such as the redesign of parking areas, removal of existing buildings and facilities, construction of new employee housing, and repurposing of existing buildings. As described in table 9-237, Yosemite Lodge was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic properties for the National Register, and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning. Impacts to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the construction of new facilities within the district would result in a minor, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p>NEPA: The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and West Valley Overflow, and camping at Upper Pines Campground. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of impact under NEPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p> <p>NHPA: The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and West Valley Overflow, and camping at Upper Pines Campground. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>



**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The formalization of the Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area would result in removal of the historic curry apple orchard, a contributing site in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). In 1927, the Park addressed a growing problem with parking by converting a nearby apple orchard into a unique parking area for Curry Village. Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Camp Curry Historic District (NPS 2006d; Hart, 1979).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> Efforts to formalize parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would affect a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> Efforts to formalize parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would alter a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed from the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The replacement of 90 tent cabins and 14 cabins without baths in Boys Town with 98 new hard-sided units (duplex/fourplex) would remove all 73 contributing historic canvas tent cabins (5 to be relocated), 14 (of 16) contributing historic bungalows.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). While contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the 16 Boys Town employee tents (and 73 Camp Curry Employee Canvas Cabins) on the north side of the road does not create an important space in the overall organization of the Camp Curry developed area, although it does possess its own, distinctive character (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The removal of tent cabins and cabins from Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of these buildings would alter the historic setting of Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of the cabins would result in the loss of 14 of 302 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and 73 of the over 600 contributing structures (of 902 total contributing resources). Mitigation will be consistent with that proposed in the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard MOA, including updating the National Register Nomination forms for both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District to reflect changes to the districts, landscape and architectural documentation of Curry Village, salvage of materials where ever possible, and the preparation of interpretive materials. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, major adverse impact to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of tent cabins and cabins from Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of the cabins would result in the loss of 14 of 302 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and 73 of the over 600 contributing structures (of 902 total contributing resources). This action would be taken consistent with guidance</p>

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan as well as the Historic Preservation Treatment Procedures outlined in Appendix J. Mitigation will be consistent with that proposed in the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard MOA, including updating the National Register Nomination forms for both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District to reflect changes to the districts, landscape and architectural documentation of Curry Village, salvage of materials where ever possible, and the preparation of interpretive materials. This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The relocation and formalization of the parking to the north of the road and re-routing Northside Drive south of the parking at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area would affect historic circulation patterns in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Northside and Southside drives create a framework for circulation around the valley, on either side of the Merced River, and are contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Wilson, 1977).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The re-routing of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns as well as alteration of a contributing resource (Northside Drive). The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner</p>

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				Garage. The realignment of Northside Drive would alter the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The alteration of a contributing resource would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001 159); Yosemite Village Historic District	The construction of a traffic circle at Northside Drive and Village Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, would affect historic circulation patterns.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). Circulation within Yosemite Valley consists of a variety of vehicular, pedestrian, and equestrian routes (NPS 2006d). The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The construction of the traffic circle at Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Village Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire lengths of Northside and Village Drives. Both of these would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Village Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The construction of the traffic circle at Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District and Yosemite Village Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire lengths of Northside and Village Drives. This action would be taken consistent with guidance to be</p>

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The alteration of contributing resources would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	Relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage to the NPS housing area and restoration of the area to natural conditions would result in an adverse effect to a contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. This will occur in addition to the rehabilitation actions described above.	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House and garage are contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage from its historic location has the potential to alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of a building from its historic location results in the loss of historic contextual setting, and can result in the delisting of the resource from the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent's House and garage to a new location has the potential to alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The relocation of buildings within the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts would result in a long term, major, local, adverse impact.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The relocation of the Superintendent's House and garage from its isolated historic location would alter the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The relocation of the buildings would result in the loss of historical setting of the resource, resulting in the building no longer being eligible for the National Register. Additionally, the introduction of the Superintendent's House and garage to a new location would alter the setting of historic resources in that location as well. The action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District	Removal of buildings from Housekeeping Camp would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	<p>The Housekeeping Camp area developed after 1942, and consists of closely sited, rustic cinderblock and canvas tent cabins. Service buildings include a camp store and laundry and shower facilities, all built after 1942. With the exception of the Housekeeping Pedestrian Bridge, Housekeeping Camp was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic properties for the National Register.</p> <p>NEPA: The removal of 34 lodging units and other facilities out of the observed ordinary high water mark could affect historic resources.</p> <p>Housekeeping Camp has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. The Park will complete Section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. Removal of the facilities in these locations would potentially result in an adverse impact. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of impact under NEPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.</p> <p>NHPA: The removal of 34 lodging units and other facilities out of the observed ordinary high water mark could alter historic resources.</p> <p>Housekeeping Camp has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. The Park will complete Section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid,</p>

**TABLE 9-237: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse effect to the historic property. This action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. Removal of the facilities in these locations would potentially result in an adverse effect. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.</p>
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District	Construction of new employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or the removal of existing buildings within the floodplain would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	<p>In 1956, the Yosemite Lodge was completely rebuilt and most of the old lodge buildings were demolished. The Yosemite Lodge is almost entirely the product of postwar planning and construction (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>NEPA: The construction of additional employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or removal of existing buildings could impact historic resources. Yosemite Lodge has not been evaluated for NR eligibility as a Mission 66 resource. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of impact under NEPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.</p> <p>NPHA: The construction of additional employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or removal of existing buildings could affect historic resources. Yosemite Lodge has not been evaluated for NR eligibility as a Mission 66 resource. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.</p>

**Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp.** Actions in the Yosemite Village area include the relocation and formalization of the parking lot and re-routing Northside Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, relocation of the Superintendent’s House and ecological restoration of the area, construction of a roundabouts and a pedestrian underpass at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, and removal of facilities from Housekeeping Camp. As described in Table 9-237, these actions would have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact to the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Under Alternative 5, actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segments 3 and 4 would not be likely to result in adverse effects on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-238 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 5.

### **Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

#### *Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

Under Alternative 5, actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 would not be likely to result in adverse effects on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”

#### *Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Under Alternative 5, actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 would not be likely to result in adverse effects on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”



**TABLE 9-238: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 4	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal Historic Structures	The construction of additional concessioner housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of potential historic resources in El Portal.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. In 1961 the National Park Service began building housing in Rancheria Flat, west of El Portal as part of the Mission 66 initiative in the National Park Service. A draft historic resource study for El Portal has identified the Rancheria Mission 66 complex as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. A Section 110 inventory would need to be completed prior to site planning (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The construction of new housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area and any potential historic resources not currently eligible or listed by the Park. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to confirm eligibility before forwarding to the SHPOs office for review and concurrence.</p>

## Summary of Impacts from Alternative 5: Enhanced Visitor Experiences and Essential River Bank Restoration

Alternative 5 would result in fewer adverse effects on historic resources than Alternatives 2, 3, or 4; however, some of the management actions proposed for Alternative 5 could have adverse effects on known historic resources through demolition, alteration, and relocation related to restoration, construction, and facilities removal. Identified historic resources that would be affected by Alternative 5 include the Camp Curry Historic District, the Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Village Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. **Table 9-239** summarizes the impacts to these historic resources. These impacts would include the alteration of character-defining features or historic context, or potential demolition of National Register-listed resources or eligible resources.

**TABLE 9-239: IMPACT SUMMARY TO HISTORIC RESOURCES UNDER ALTERNATIVE 5**

Historic District	Types of Impacts	Overall Impact Summary (NEPA)	Overall Impact Summary (NHPA)
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District	Removal of contributing resources	long term, negligible, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Camp Curry Historic District	Demolition of contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads and trails, removal of historic buildings and facilities, construction of new buildings and facilities	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
NR Ahwahnee Hotel	Removal of contributing resources	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Camp 4	construction of additional campsites, parking, and facilities	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Yosemite Village Historic District	Removal of contributing roads and buildings	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District	Alteration of the setting of historic bridges, removal of historic bridge	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect

## Cumulative Impacts from Alternative 5: Enhanced Visitor Experiences and Essential River Bank Restoration

### *Past Actions*

Past actions have resulted in a range of beneficial and adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts of past actions include extensive actions to preserve and maintain historic resources, including the Camp Curry Historic District (Curry Village Registration Building, Guest Lounge and Amphitheater Rehabilitation), as well as restoration of meadows associated with the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's Meadow). Adverse effects include the removal of the NR eligible Cascades area houses.

### ***Present Actions***

Present actions contribute to a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts. These impacts include efforts to restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee NHL while completing long-term rehabilitation of the building and associated features, construction of the Wawona fire station, Camp 4 relocating eight campsites, and the Ahwahnee Hotel Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence project. Additionally, the park has established the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone, which has resulted in the loss of historic structures. These structures are being documented under a separate MOA.

### ***Future Actions***

Impacts from future actions would be similar to those discussed for past and present actions as a mix of beneficial and adverse impacts to historic resources. The Curry Village Rehabilitation of Historic Cabins with Bath Structures, seismic upgrade to the Ahwahnee Dormitory, and efforts to stabilize the floor of the Ahwahnee Hotel, all consist of potential future actions with the potential to affect historic resources within the park.

### ***Overall Cumulative Impact***

Alternative 5 would involve the demolition or alteration of several National Register-eligible or -listed structures and historic districts (Merced Lake High Sierra Camp, the Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Village Historic District, and Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District). Additionally, actions common to Alternatives 2–6 would involve the relocation or alteration of several National Register-eligible, listed, or National Historic Landmark structures (the NR Ahwahnee Hotel, Superintendent’s House [Residence 1], Camp Curry Historic District, and Camp 4). The alteration or removal of these resources would potentially result in a long-term, moderate, adverse impact on both the individual cultural resources and the cumulative historic character of the Merced River corridor. While all site-specific planning and compliance actions would be accomplished in accordance with stipulations in the park’s proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement, the potential effect on the character-defining features of historic resources within the river corridor would result in long-term, moderate, local adverse cumulative impacts on historic resources.

## ***Environmental Consequences of Alternative 6: Diversified Visitor Experiences and Selective Riverbank Restoration***

### **All River Segments**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values across all river segments under Alternative 6 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

No actions to manage visitor use and facilities across all river segments under Alternative 6 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of the proposed actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

No actions to protect and enhance river values within Segment 1 under Alternative 6 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of these actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

No actions to manage visitor use and facilities within Segment 1 under Alternative 6 would result in an adverse effect on historic resources. None of these actions would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district.

### **Segment 2: Yosemite Valley**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Table 9-240 describes impacts of actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 6.

**Biological Resource Actions.** Biological resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 6 would result in moderate or beneficial, local, long term adverse impacts on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA through impacts to the contributing resources of Valley Loop Trail, Slaughterhouse and Bridalveil Meadows, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions.** Hydrologic/geologic resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 6 would result in minor adverse impact on both the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District or Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District under NHPA. No NHL would be affected.

**Cultural Resource Actions.** Cultural resource actions to protect and enhance river values in Segment 2 under Alternative 6 would result in a negligible, long term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NEPA, and no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley or Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA through impacts resulting from the rehabilitation of the contributing resource of the Superintendent's House. No NHL would be affected.

**TABLE 9-240: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Biological Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Restoration of El Captain Meadow would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. The El Captain Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The restoration of the meadow to its historic setting would result in a long term, local, beneficial effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The restoration of the meadow would improve the condition of a resource and would result in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail, including the construction of boardwalks through sensitive habitat in Slaughterhouse and Bridalveil Meadows, has the potential to affect both these contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Valley Loop Trail is one of the primary trails originating in the valley. The Valley Loop Trail dates from the 1920s and was originally built as a bridle trail, generally aligned along existing circulation routes. Thirteen additional miles were added to the Valley Loop Trail in 1928, requiring the construction of 14 bridges. Today, the Valley Loop Trail includes the entire remaining bridle trail system in the valley and it is approximately 21 miles long (Criterion A). The Slaughterhouse Meadow is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District as a characteristic landscape feature in the Valley (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>The Valley Loop Trail and Slaughterhouse and Bridalveil Meadows are contributors to the National Register-listed Yosemite Valley Historic District. Rerouting the Valley Loop Trail could alter these historic resources. Any sections of Valley Loop Trail that would be rerouted would require additional analysis prior to construction or demolition. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation)), but without the above described analysis. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning.</p>

**TABLE 9-240: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Hydrologic/Geologic Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District (1977000160), Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	In order to address river flow concerns, Stoneman Bridge would be left in place, but engineer solutions, such as installation of large wood or culverts to Northside Drive would be installed. In the event that these solutions do not resolve impacts to the condition of the river, more aggressive solutions may be pursued. This would result in an effect to a contributing structure to this historic district.	<p>Bridges have been a major component of the cultural landscape of the Yosemite Valley from the first years of Non-indigenous settlement. The Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District consists of 8 granite-faced, concrete arch road bridges on the Valley floor, constructed between 1921 and 1933. The Valley bridges are unique for their architectural design and aesthetic considerations, representing an effort to build structures in the national parks which are simple and uniform in design to blend in with the environment (Criterion C) (Wilson, 1977). This bridge is also a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The installation of engineered solutions in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge may alter the historic setting of a contributor to the historic Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District. If culverts were installed in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge, the culverts would be installed following Yosemite Design Guidelines and mitigation measure HIST-1, and should not affect the historic setting of the bridge, resulting in a negligible, long-term, local, adverse impact on the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The installation of engineered solutions in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge may alter the historic setting of a contributor to the historic Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District and Yosemite Valley Historic District. If culverts were installed in the vicinity of Stoneman Bridge, the culverts would be installed following Yosemite Design Guidelines and mitigation measure HIST-1, and should not affect the historic setting of the bridge, resulting in no adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District or Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p> <p>In the event that more aggressive solutions are required, the Park will complete additional site planning to determine the extent of impacts to Stoneman Bridge. While this action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation), without finalized designs is not possible to determine the impact of this action under NEPA/NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-240: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE RIVER VALUES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Cultural Resource Actions</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159); Yosemite Village Historic District	<p>Rehabilitation of the Superintendent's House in its existing location to preserve the historic fabric while preparing the structure to withstand periodic flooding would result in no adverse effect to the contributor to the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts.</p>	<p>Yosemite Village has one of the largest and most significant collections of NPS Rustic style buildings in the national park system, with both concessioner and NPS buildings representing a range of rustic types and building materials (Criterion 3). The Superintendent's House is a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The action to rehabilitate the Superintendent's House in its historic location and preparing the structure to withstand periodic flooding would be taken consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation as well as guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The rehabilitation of the building would result in a negligible, long term, local, adverse impact.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The action to rehabilitate the Superintendent's House in its historic location and preparing the structure to withstand periodic flooding would be taken consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation as well as guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action will have no adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite Village Historic Districts under NHPA.</p>

### ***Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities***

Table 9-241 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segment 2 under Alternative 6.

**Curry Village.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Curry Village area would include the replacement of 90 tent cabins and 14 cabins without baths in Boys Town with 78 new hard-sided units, and formalizing the Curry Orchard Parking area. As described in table 9-241 below, actions to remove housing, formalization of Curry Orchard Parking, and reroute Southside Drive would result in a long term, local, major adverse impact to the Camp Curry and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts under NEPA. These actions would result in an adverse effect to the Camp Curry and Yosemite Valley Historic Districts through alterations to contributing historic properties under NHPA.

**Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4.** Project level actions to manage visitor use and facilities in the Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4 areas would include alterations to Yosemite Lodge, such as the redesign of parking areas, removal of existing buildings and facilities, construction of new employee housing, and repurposing of existing buildings. As described in table 9-241 below, Yosemite Lodge was identified as being a non-contributing site within the Yosemite Valley Historic District. However, it has not been evaluated for its post-WWII significance under the 50-year rule for the inventorying of historic properties for the National Register, and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO during future site planning. Impacts to the Yosemite Valley Historic District through the construction of new facilities within the district would result in a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and no adverse effect under NHPA.

**Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp.** Actions in the Yosemite Village area include the relocation and formalization of the parking lot and re-routing Northside Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, construction of roundabouts and a pedestrian underpass at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area, and removal of facilities from Housekeeping Camp. As described in table 9-241 below, these actions would have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact to the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA, and an adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.

### **Segments 3 and 4: Merced River Gorge and El Portal**

#### ***Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values***

Under Alternative 6, actions intended to protect and enhance river values in Segments 3 and 4 would not be likely to result in adverse effects on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”



**TABLE 9-241: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 2	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	Construction of additional housing or facilities would result in an alteration to the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation.</p> <p>The introduction of new permanent buildings, facilities, or additional parking has the potential to alter the setting of the Yosemite Valley Historic District. This includes actions such as increased parking at Lost Arrow and West Valley Overflow, and camping at Upper Pines and the former Lower River Campground. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan PA and a determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would occur after a determination of eligibility is completed and concurred upon by SHPO and during future site planning.</p>
<b>Curry Village</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The replacement of 90 tent cabins and 14 cabins without baths in Boys Town with 98 new hard-sided units (duplex/fourplex) would remove all 73 contributing historic canvas tent cabins (5 to be relocated), 14 (of 16) contributing historic bungalows.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). While contributors to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, the 16 Boys Town employee tents (and 73 Camp Curry Employee Canvas Cabins) on the north side of the road does not create an important space in the overall organization of the Camp Curry developed area, although it does possess its own, distinctive character (NPS 2006d).</p> <p>NEPA: The removal of tent cabins and cabins from Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of these buildings would alter</p>

**TABLE 9-241: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>the historic setting of Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of the cabins would result in the loss of 14 of 302 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and 73 of the over 600 contributing structures (of 902 total contributing resources). Mitigation will be consistent with that proposed in the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard MOA, including updating the National Register Nomination Forms for both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District to reflect changes to the districts, landscape and architectural documentation of Curry Village, salvage of materials where ever possible, and the preparation of interpretive materials. The action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, major adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The removal of tent cabins and cabins from Boys Town would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The loss of the cabins would result in the loss of 14 of 302 contributing buildings to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and 73 of the over 600 contributing structures (of 902 total contributing resources). This action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation) as well as the Historic Preservation Treatment Procedures outlined in Appendix J. Mitigation will be consistent with that proposed in the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard MOA, including updating the National Register Nomination forms for both the Yosemite Valley Historic District and the Camp Curry Historic District to reflect changes to the districts, landscape and architectural documentation of Curry Village, salvage of materials where ever possible, and the preparation of interpretive materials. This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The formalization of the Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area would result in the removal of historic trees and alteration of a contributor to the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	<p>The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley features nationally significant examples of architecture. Camp Curry is a rare example of a surviving tent cabin complex of the type that was once common in many parks (Criterion C). In 1927, the Park</p>

**TABLE 9-241: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Curry Village (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p>addressed a growing problem with parking by converting a nearby apple orchard into a unique parking area for Curry Village. Curry Orchard Day Use Parking area is a contributing site to the Yosemite Valley Historic District, but not the Camp Curry Historic District (NPS 2006d; Hart, 1979).</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> Efforts to formalize parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would affect historic trees, as well as a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed during formalization of the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action would result in a long term, local, moderate adverse effect to the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> Efforts to formalize parking within the Curry Orchard parking lot would alter historic trees, as well as the parking area as a contributing resource to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. All trees will be removed during formalization of the parking lot. This action would be completed consistent with management practices outlined in the Orchard Management Guidelines and guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). This action will have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The relocation and formalization of the parking to the north of the road and re-routing Northside Drive south of the parking at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area would affect historic circulation patterns in the Yosemite Valley Historic District.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Northside and Southside drives create a framework for circulation around the valley, on either side of the Merced River, and are contributing structures to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).

**TABLE 9-241: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The re-routing of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns as well as alteration of a contributing resource (Northside Drive). The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The formalization of the parking lot will occur within the existing developed former footprint of the Concessioner GO and the Concessioner Garage. The realignment of Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The road realignment will include a small segment of the entire length of Northside Drive. This action would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The alteration of a contributing resource would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Valley Historic District (2004001159)	The construction of vehicular roundabouts at Northside Drive and Sentinel Drive (Bank 3-Way) and Northside Drive and Village Drive at Yosemite Village Day-Use Parking area would affect historic circulation patterns.	The cultural landscape of Yosemite Valley is nationally significant under National Register criteria A and C. The valley floor landscape as a whole is nationally significant in the themes of outdoor recreation, tourism, and conservation. Many recreational trends, including sightseeing, camping, auto camping, mountaineering, winter sports, and others began or were significantly advanced at Yosemite (Criterion A). Circulation within Yosemite Valley consists of a variety of vehicular, pedestrian, and equestrian routes. Northside and Southside drives create a framework for circulation around the valley, on either side of the Merced River (NPS 2006d). The historic circulation of Yosemite Village is predominantly centered on Village Drive between Northside Drive and Village bike path (NPS 2006d). Northside Drive is not a contributor to the Yosemite Village Historic District (Donahoe 1994).

**TABLE 9-241: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				<p><i>NEPA:</i> The construction of the roundabouts at Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The addition will impact proportionally small segments of the entire lengths of Northside and Village Drives. These actions would comply with guidance to be established through development of a Programmatic Agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The proposed action will have a moderate, local, long term adverse impact on the listed Yosemite Valley Historic District under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The construction of the roundabouts at Northside Drive would affect the Yosemite Valley Historic District through alteration of historic circulation patterns. The addition will include a proportionally small segments of the entire lengths of Northside and Village Drives. These actions would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan (or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation). The alteration of a contributing resource would have an adverse effect on the Yosemite Valley Historic District under NHPA.</p>
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Housekeeping Camp	Removal of buildings from Housekeeping Camp would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	<p>The Housekeeping Camp area developed after 1942, and consists of closely sited, rustic cinderblock and canvas tent cabins. Service buildings include a camp store and laundry and shower facilities, all built after 1942. This area has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource.</p> <p>The removal of 34 lodging units and other facilities out of the observed ordinary high water mark could affect historic resources. Housekeeping Camp has not been previously evaluated as a National Register-eligible resource. The Park will complete NHPA section 110 prior to this action, with a DOE completed prior to site planning. Additional consultation (tribal or SHPO) would also be required. In the event that the property is found eligible, planning and design efforts would be reassessed prior to construction in order to ensure that the park has attempted to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potentially adverse impacts to the historic property. This action would be completed consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This</p>

**TABLE 9-241: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENT 2 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6 (CONTINUED)**

Segment	Action Type	National Register Listed or Eligible Property	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
<b>Yosemite Village and Housekeeping Camp (cont.)</b>				
Segment 2 (cont.)				action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.
<b>Yosemite Lodge and Camp 4</b>				
Segment 2	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	Yosemite Lodge	Construction of new employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or the removal of existing buildings within the floodplain would potentially result in the removal of a historic resource.	In 1956, the Yosemite Lodge was completely rebuilt and most of the old lodge buildings were demolished. The Yosemite Lodge is almost entirely the product of postwar planning and construction, but has not been evaluated for eligibility as a National Register-eligible resource (NPS, 2006).  The construction of additional employee housing or parking in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge or removal of existing buildings could affect historic resources. Yosemite Lodge has not been evaluated for NR eligibility as a Mission 66 resource. The park will complete a Determination of Eligibility prior to implementing the selected action. This action would be completed in compliance with the proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement. A determination of effect under both NEPA and NHPA would be required to inform the planning/design process after a Determination of Eligibility is completed and concurred upon by the SHPO.

*Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-242 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 6.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 3 and 4 under Alternative 6 would result in minor, long term, local adverse impacts on historic resources in El Portal under NEPA.

**Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8: South Fork Merced River**

*Impacts of Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values*

No actions intended to protect and enhance river values under Alternative 6 in Segments 5, 6, 7, and 8 are anticipated to result in an adverse effect on historic resources. These actions would not involve activities that would affect the character-defining features of a historic building, structure, or district. Impacts common to Alternatives 2–6 are discussed earlier in this section under “Environmental Consequences Common to Alternatives 2–6.”

*Impacts of Actions to Manage User Capacities, Land Use, and Facilities*

Table 9-243 describes impacts of actions intended to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 5, 6, 7 and 8 under Alternative 6.

Actions to manage visitor use and facilities in Segments 5, 6, 7 and 8 under Alternative 6 would result in minor, long term, local adverse impacts on historic resources in El Portal under NEPA and no adverse effect under NHPA.

**Summary of Impacts from Alternative 6: Diversified Visitor Experiences and Selective Riverbank Restoration**

Alternative 6 would result in the fewest adverse effects on historic resources; however, some of the management actions under Alternative 6 could adversely affect known historic resources through demolition, alteration, and relocation related to restoration, construction, and facilities removal. Identified historic resources that would be affected by Alternative 6 management actions include the Camp Curry Historic District, the Yosemite Valley Historic District, and the Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District. Table 9-244 summarizes the impacts to these historic resources. These impacts would include altering character-defining features or historic context, or potentially demolishing contributing resources to NRHP-listed or eligible districts. These actions could cause long-term, adverse minor effects on historic buildings, sites, and districts.

**TABLE 9-242: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 3 AND 4 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 4	Actions to Manage Visitor Use and Facilities	El Portal	The construction of additional concessioner housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of potential historic resources in El Portal.	<p>El Portal is a small community comprised of 1200 acres of land on both the north and south sides of the Merced River and Highway 140. In 1961 the National Park Service began building housing in Rancheria Flat, west of El Portal as part of the Mission 66 initiative in the National Park Service. The Rancheria Mission 66 area has been recommended as a historic district as part of a historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in El Portal, but has not yet received SHPO concurrence (NPS 2011r).</p> <p>The construction of new housing in the Rancheria area of El Portal has the potential to alter the historic setting of the area and any potential historic resources not currently eligible or listed by the Park. A historic resource study identifying potentially eligible properties in the vicinity of El Portal has been completed by park staff (NPS 2011r). This study provides the park with enough research/information to identify potentially eligible resources that will need further Section 110 inventory/analysis to confirm eligibility before forwarding to the SHPOs office for review and concurrence.</p>



**TABLE 9-243: IMPACTS OF ACTIONS INTENDED TO MANAGE VISITOR USE AND FACILITIES IN SEGMENTS 5, 6, 7 AND 8 UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6**

Segment	Action Type	Potential Historic Resource	Action and Impact to Resource	Analysis under NEPA/NHPA
Segment 7	Actions to Protect and Enhance River Values	Wawona	The closure of the stables in Wawona would affect contributors to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.	<p>The Wawona Hotel and Pavilion's architectural importance to American architecture is as the largest existing Victorian hotel complex within the boundaries of a national park, and one of the few remaining in the United States with this high level of integrity (Criterion C). A Cultural Landscape Inventory completed for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center includes the Wawona Stables as a contributing resource.</p> <p><i>NEPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables would alter the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The proposed action would result in a long term, local, minor adverse effect Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NEPA.</p> <p><i>NHPA:</i> The closure of the Wawona stables would alter the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Operations of the Wawona stables would cease, but the structures would remain and the area would be converted to use as the site of the relocated Wawona stock use campground. The action would be taken consistent with guidance to be established through development of a programmatic agreement for the Merced River Plan or the standard 36 CFR Part 800 consultation. The action would have no adverse effect on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center under NHPA.</p>

**TABLE 9-244: IMPACT SUMMARY TO HISTORIC RESOURCES UNDER ALTERNATIVE 6**

Historic District	Types of Impacts	Overall Impact Summary (NEPA)	Overall Impact Summary (NEPA)
Camp Curry Historic District	Demolition of contributing buildings.	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads and trails, removal of historic buildings and facilities, construction of new buildings and facilities,	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Village Historic District	Rerouting of historic roads, removal of historic buildings	long term, moderate, local, adverse impact	Adverse effect
Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District	alteration of setting of historic bridge	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect
Pioneer Yosemite History Center	Closure of operations at a contributing site	long term, minor, local, adverse impact	No adverse effect

**Cumulative Impacts from Alternative 6: Diversified Visitor Experiences and Selective Riverbank Restoration**

***Past Actions***

Past actions have resulted in a range of beneficial and adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts of past actions include extensive actions to preserve and maintain historic resources, including the Camp Curry Historic District (Curry Village Registration Building, Guest Lounge and Amphitheater Rehabilitation), as well as restoration of meadows associated with the Yosemite Valley Historic District (Cook's Meadow). Adverse effects include the removal of the NR eligible Cascades area houses.

***Present Actions***

Present actions contribute to a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts. These impacts include efforts to restore, preserve, and protect the historic integrity and character-defining features of The Ahwahnee NHL while completing long-term rehabilitation of the building and associated features, construction of the Wawona fire station, Camp 4 relocating eight campsites, and the Ahwahnee Hotel Porte Cochère Access Walkways and Fence project. Additionally, the park has established the Curry Village Rockfall Hazard Zone, which has resulted in the loss of historic structures. These structures are being documented under a separate MOA.

***Future Actions***

Impacts from future actions would be similar to those discussed for past and present actions as a mix of beneficial and adverse impacts to historic resources. The Curry Village Rehabilitation of Historic Cabins with Bath Structures, seismic upgrade to the Ahwahnee Dormitory, and efforts to stabilize the floor of the Ahwahnee Hotel, all consist of potential future actions with the potential to affect historic resources within the park.

*Overall Cumulative Impact*

Under Alternative 6, the park would alter several National Register-eligible or -listed structures or districts (Yosemite Valley Historic District, Yosemite Valley Bridges Historic District, and Camp Curry Historic District). Additionally, actions common to Alternatives 2–6 would involve the relocation or alteration of several National Register-eligible, listed, or National Historic Landmark structures (the NR Ahwahnee Hotel, Superintendent’s House [Residence 1], Camp Curry Historic District, and Camp 4). The alteration of these resources would potentially result in a long-term, minor, adverse impact on both the individual cultural resources and the cumulative historic fabric of the Merced River corridor. While all site-specific planning and compliance actions would be accomplished in accordance with stipulations in the park’s proposed Merced River Plan programmatic agreement, the potential effect on the character-defining features of historic resources within the river corridor would result in a long-term, moderate adverse cumulative impact on historic resources.