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# YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

## SCENIC VISTA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM WORK PLAN 2022/2023

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Yosemite National Park is an icon of scenic grandeur. When set aside in 1864, Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove were the first natural areas in the United States protected for public benefit and appreciation of the scenic landscape. Over four-million visitors come to Yosemite National Park each year to see its natural wonders.

The scenic vista program documents, protects, and reestablishes Yosemite's important viewpoints and vistas, consistent with the natural processes and human influences that created them. The *Finding of No Significant Impact* for the *Scenic Vista Management Plan* (SVMP) environmental assessment was completed and signed in July of 2011 for sites outside of the Wild and Scenic River corridors. The *Tuolumne River Wild and Scenic River Plan, Appendix I*, describes actions for vista management consistent with preserving and enhancing the values of the river. The *Merced River Wild and Scenic River Plan, Appendix H*, describes actions for vista management within the Merced River corridor. Sites were ranked according to a visual resource assessment scale (VRA). Vistas were given a score between 1-18 based on the criteria of vividness, uniqueness, access, and intactness.

No more than 93 vista sites throughout the park will be initially managed, and an additional 21 sites monitored and maintained. A total of 32 sites have been initially managed, so far.

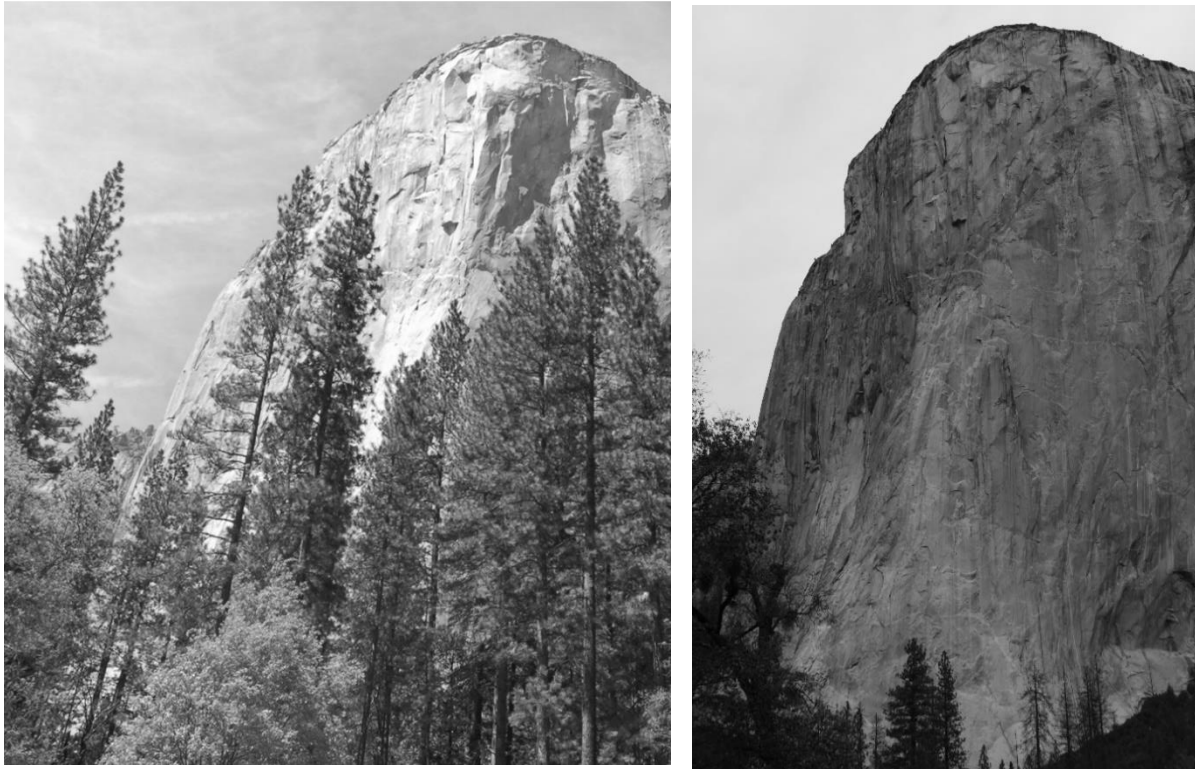
### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019/2020

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The scenic vista management program was not implemented in 2020-2021. As follows are the highlights from the last work plan. Resources Management and Science staff began worked on several scenic vista sites in 2019/2020: Valley View, El Capitan Meadow, Bridalveil Fall Approach, Sentinel Meadow Boardwalk, Roosevelt Turnout, Postage Stamp, Wosky Pond, and Ahwahnee Dining Room. After several years of work, Valley View is complete. Cloud's Rest, Bridalveil Fall and Half Dome are now visible from the viewpoint on Northside Drive in addition to grander views of El Capitan and Bridalveil Fall. Additionally, the section of the Valley loop trail passing through the cleared area now has open, unobstructed views of Bridalveil Meadow and El Capitan. Stumps were removed and piles were burned at the site and Bridalveil Meadow has advanced in the recently cleared area.

Valley View, Roosevelt turnout, and Bridalveil approach were cleared concurrently since they shared the same focal point of Bridalveil Fall. Restoration of these views has created a new issue of a traffic and parking problem where there was not one before. However, it has created a sense of

arrival to Yosemite Valley that was previously missing and traffic flow has improved as adjustments have been made to the parking.



*El Capitan before scenic vista management (left) and after restoration (right).*

### SUMMARY OF 2019/2020 ACTIONS

TABLE 1: SUMMARY TABLE OF SCENIC VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS 2019-2020

Number	Vista site	View of	Recommended # trees removed	svmp number	Priority	VRA score	
1	Ahwahnee Dining Room	Yosemite Falls	207	161	High	10.25	
4	Cathedral Spires Turnout	Cathedral Spires and Rock	21	225	Medium	7.5	
6	Sentinel Bridge Parking	Yosemite Falls, Cooks Meadow	72	28	High	11.5	
10	Pothole Dome	Lembert Dome, Tuolumne Meadows	Many small	108	High	13	

Traditionally associated American Indian tribes and groups were notified of actions, and park staff and the public were notified via announcement in the daily report, and temporary onsite vista clearing road signs. The park received no comments on the work plan or the work in progress.

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## 2022/2023 WORK PLAN

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This work plan is provided to ensure the public is informed and the park’s implementation process is transparent. Comments about specific actions in the work plans are welcome. Park staff will review comments submitted to the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. Individual, site-specific work plans may be adjusted or postponed based on additional information. The final work plan will be posted before any work begins, in the event there are any changes between the draft and final work plans.

This year we are proposing to work on several sites in Yosemite Valley, along Big Oak Flat Road, and Wawona Road. We do not anticipate completing all proposed vistas. More vistas are presented than can be completed to provide flexibility around concerns such as traffic, nesting season, resource availability, and fire danger. Several of the vistas will require removing additional trees to achieve full prescription than prescribed in the Merced River Plan; these are Leidig Meadow and Sentinel Boardwalk. We are taking a staged approach and will clear portions of the larger vistas, but will spread the work over several years to gradually restore them. The workplan is spread over two years because work primarily occurs from autumn to early spring to avoid damage to sensitive vegetation and soils, and disrupt sensitive nesting and denning seasons in the spring and early summer.

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### MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL SITES

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The following proposed site-specific work plans are within all guidelines set out in the *Scenic Vista Management Plan* environmental assessment *Finding of No Significant Impact*. Areas for tree removals are kept to a minimum and are within all set limits. There are numerous mitigations and protections to ensure effects of tree removal are minimized or eliminated.

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#### SAFETY

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Employee and visitor safety will be the highest priority during vista clearing operations. Tree felling operations will occur under the direction of the project manager and will follow all park safety protocols.

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#### REVIEW

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Park subject matter specialists review the annual work plan to ensure any potential adverse impacts are avoided, and appropriate mitigation measures are implemented.

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#### TIMING

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Work is scheduled to minimize potential impacts on bird, plant, pacific fisher, and bat species. In general, August through March would be the best estimated time for vista clearing to take place, subject to site-specific conditions.

All work that generates noise levels above 76 decibels near residential or visitor use areas will be performed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Temporary road closures will generally not exceed 15 minutes. Road closures will be scheduled in periods of low visitation when possible. Workers with signs will direct closures.

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## RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

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Features with obvious high value to wildlife, such as snags (particularly those with evidence of wildlife use), very large diameter trees, oak trees, large diameter logs, and decaying wood will be preserved in place where possible.

Work in pacific fisher habitat will only occur outside of the limited operating period and will follow guidance from biological opinion.

Work in red-legged frog habitat will be avoided after periods of heavy rain (1/2" in 24 hours). Pile construction will be avoided to the extent possible to prevent creation of sink habitat.

Special-status plant species habitat will be flagged and avoided.

Equipment will be inspected before clearing activities commenced to ensure that machinery is clean and free of weed seed and propagules.

Within riparian corridors white alder trees (*Alnus rhombifolia*) will not be removed unless critical to restoring a vista of high or medium value. No removal of species in the willow family (*Salix*), including black cottonwood trees (*Populus balsamifera*) will occur. None of these species are proposed to be removed in, however, several trees may be trimmed.

Several vista sites in the work plan are near riverbanks, but trees overhanging the water's edge will not be removed. No removal of in-stream, downed large wood will occur.

Old growth trees and trees older than the establishment date of a vista will not be removed.

Cultural resource staff reviewed the work plan to avoid impacts to cultural resources from operations such as log or slash removal/disposal. An archeologist will direct crews away from archeological sites or will provide site specific mitigation measures to avoid disturbance.

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## IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

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Biomass may be utilized or disposed of in any way that will not require additional compliance. This could be traditional cultural use, historic preservation projects, lop and scatter, onsite mulch, chip and haul, pile and burn, haul to woodlot, or contracted timber removal.

Noise levels near residential or visitor use areas will be minimized.

Work crews will avoid soil compaction or disturbance when operating trucks or heavy equipment in wet or compactable soils by distributing machinery weight with military landing mats, snow, heavy plywood, or alternatives. Operators will move tracked equipment straight in and out of work sites and avoid turning while off pavement. Disturbed soils will be rehabilitated by restoring slope contour and using other best practices.

Specific vegetation that is a critical component of a cultural landscape will not be removed, including black oak.

Vehicles will contain equipment for the prevention and cleanup of spills. Any necessary temporary fuel storage and staging areas will be flagged, signed, and monitored. Work crews will use safe and environmentally friendly fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluid, and other fluids.

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### IMPLEMENTATION

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Stumps will be ground down, or flush cut, ground down or buried with debris to hide the obvious cut appearance. Larger stumps may have habitat value, and some may be retained as long as the stump does not appear to be cut and is in keeping with the surrounding area.

Chip woody debris and disperse as mulch on site at a rate of no more than 1 inch deep.

Scatter all large woody debris left on site from the newly cut trees to reduce visual impacts.

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### RESTORATION ACTIONS

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Mitigate all impacts associated with the cutting and removal of targeted trees by scarifying compacted soils and mulching disturbed areas with native forest litter except in culturally sensitive areas.

Collect native grass and forb seed in late summer and early fall, as appropriate by species.

Reseed any impacted areas upon completion of all forestry management actions.

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### CONTINUED MAINTENANCE

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Evaluate and maintain site vistas every three years.

Maintenance may include felling trees up to 6" dbh.

<b>Work Plan Sites</b>	<b>Vista site</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>Recommended # trees removed</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>1</b>	San Joaquin Overlook	Central Valley	23	85	Medium	9.25
<b>2</b>	Crane Flat Meadow	Crane Flat Meadow	112	140	Medium	6.75
<b>3</b>	Foresta Burn Overlook	Foresta	Trim 4	145	Medium	7.5
<b>4</b>	Elephant Rock Turnout	Elephant Rock	2	229	Medium	8
<b>5</b>	Wawona Road, 2 miles S. of tunnel	Merced River Canyon	4	71	Low	6.25
<b>6</b>	Wawona Road, 2.25 miles S. of tunnel	Merced River Canyon	4	72	Low	6.25
<b>7</b>	Fire interpretive sign	Merced River Canyon	12	45	Medium	8.5
<b>8</b>	Avalanche Creek Turnout	Merced River Canyon	25	75	Medium	7
<b>9</b>	1 mile north of Chinquapin	S. Fork Merced	4	58	Low	6.25
<b>10</b>	Rail Creek	S. Fork Merced	23	69	Low	3.5
<b>11</b>	N. Strawberry Creek	S. Fork Merced	22	68	Low	3.5
<b>12</b>	7 miles N. of Wawona	S. Fork Merced	16	67	Low	4.25
<b>13</b>	Deer Lick	S. Fork Merced	3	66	Low	4.75
<b>14</b>	Alder Creek Trailhead	S. Fork Merced	18	65	Low	5.25
<b>15</b>	Mosquito Creek Trailhead	S. Fork Merced	7	64	Low	4.25
<b>16</b>	Ferry Bend	El Capitan	389		High	12
<b>17</b>	Sentinel Bridge Parking	Yosemite Falls	72	117	High	11.5
<b>18</b>	Stoneman Meadow Boardwalk	Royal Arches, N. Dome, Stoneman Meadow	160	123	High	13.5
<b>19</b>	Church Bowl Picnic Area	Half Dome	285	81	High	12
<b>20</b>	Hutchings View B	Yosemite Falls	63	158	High	12
<b>21</b>	Yosemite Falls View	Yosemite Falls	93	18	Medium	8.75
<b>22</b>	Superintendents Bridge Flood Sign	N. Dome, Half Dome, Royal Arches	104	47	High	10.75

23	Leidig Meadow West	N. Dome, Half Dome	19	31	High	11.75
24	Sentinel Meadow Boardwalk	Yosemite Falls	35		High	10.75
25	Illilouette Fall View	Illilouette Falls	25	30	Medium	8.25
26	Vernal Fall Footbridge	Vernal Fall	Trim 6	29	Medium	7.25
27	Lembert Dome Parking	Unicorn Peak	Many small	106	Medium	8.75
28	Tuolumne Meadows Trail to Parson's Lodge	Lembert Dome, Cathedral Peak	Many small	107	High	10.5
29	Pothole Dome Turnout	Tuolumne Meadows, Mt. Gibbs	Many small	108	High	13

The sites proposed for actions this year are low, medium, and high along Big Oak Flat Road, Wawona road, and within the Merced River corridor in Yosemite Valley. Actions at these sites will reestablish scenic vistas and restore vegetation. Specific actions are described in more detail in each site's work plan. Information on these sites is compiled into a geographic information system database to track future management and maintenance needs. Work will also be coordinated with the Facilities Management Software System, and park staff will begin to document and schedule the need for future cyclic maintenance. All other high priority sites that had initial actions taken, and other high priority sites not obscured, will be monitored and their status and maintenance needs recorded.

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### SCENIC VISTA: SAN JOAQUIN OVERLOOK

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Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
1	Central valley, foothills	85	medium	9.25

This vista was cleared around 2012. The vista clearing was not completed at the time. A single fixed point view of the foothills and central valley was created by removing several larger trees at the center of the vista. By now removing numerous smaller trees around the edge of the parking lot, it will feather the sharp contrast of the view.

### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

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#### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<30" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	9	7	16
Cedar	6	1	7
Total	15	8	23

**SCENIC VISTA: CRANE FLAT MEADOW**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
2	Crane Flat Meadow	140	Medium	6.75

The Crane Flat Meadow Vista is a dynamic vista of the Crane Flat meadow viewed from Big Oak Flat Road and Tioga Road. The goal of this vista is to increase meadow extent and improve wildlife habitat. The meadow extent has decreased over time due to encroachment of conifers. Conifers up to 30" diameter will be removed to restore the view of the meadow and to restore the meadow extent. The approach to the meadow will be feathered along Big Oak Flat approaching from the south, and on both directions along Tioga Road up to 30 meters. Larger diameter trees and snags will be retained. Restoration of this vistas will be coordinated with wildlife biologists.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	25	2	27
Cedar	15	4	19
Fir	37	7	44
Lodgepole	19	3	22
Total	96	16	112

**SCENIC VISTA: FORESTA BURN OVERLOOK**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
3	Foresta, Big Meadow	140	Medium	6.75

This view is situated at the Big Oak Flat Trailhead looking into the community of Foresta, Big Meadow, and across the open burned area that has been recently burned in several fires. The view is partially obscured by several large live oak trees that can be pruned to enhance the view. No trees need to be removed.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Live oak	Trim 4	



**SCENIC VISTA: ELEPHANT ROCK TURNOUT**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>4</b>	Elephant rock, Merced River canyon, El Capitan, Half Dome	229	Medium	8

This view is the first vista of Yosemite Valley by drivers approaching from Big Oak Flat Road. It is situated 0.2 miles past the Foresta turnoff. The view looks directly across from Elephant Rock and up the Merced River Canyon towards El Capitan and Half Dome. Removal of several pines, and pruning of several live oaks will greatly enhance a view that has been opened in part by the 2018 Ferguson Fire. The view will be feathered to the south along Big Oak Flat Road for 20 meters.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	1	1
Cedar	1	1
Live oak	Trim 3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**SCENIC VISTA: WAWONA TUNNEL, 2 MILES SOUTH OF TUNNEL**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>5</b>	Merced River Canyon	71	Low	6.25

This vista is 2 miles south of the Wawona Tunnel and looks into the Merced River Canyon. This view is blocked by a dozen small (<12" dbh) live oaks. Removal of 4 live oaks and limbing up branches off twelve trees will create a small viewing area into the river canyon.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Live oak	4 (trim 12)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

**SCENIC VISTA: WAWONA ROAD, 2.25 MILES SOUTH OF TUNNEL**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>6</b>	Merced River Canyon	72	Low	6.25

This vista is 2.25 miles south of the Wawona Tunnel and looks into the Merced River Canyon. This view was partially opened during the 2018 Ferguson Fire but further removal of several live oaks and trimming of several other live oaks will greatly improve the blocked view.

VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh
Live oak	Trim 4

SCENIC VISTA: FIRE INTERPRETATIVE SIGN

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
7	Merced River Canyon, Steamboat and Ferguson Fires	45	Medium	8.5

This vista is from a pullout and interpretative panel overlooking the Merced River Canyon and the recovery of the landscape after the Steamboat and Ferguson Fires. The view is partially blocked looking down the Merced River Canyon and looking towards Devil’s dance floor. Removing around 20 ponderosa pine seedlings <6" dbh is needed to maintain current view.

VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	TOTAL
Fir	1	1
Cedar	11	11
Total	12	12

SCENIC VISTA: AVALANCHE CREEK TURNOUT

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
8	Merced River Canyon	75	Medium	7

This vista is several miles south of the Wawona Tunnel and looks into the Merced River Canyon. This view was partially opened during the 2018 Ferguson Fire but further removal of trees will greatly improve the blocked view. The view will be feathered 20 meters to the north and south of the vista.

## VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<30" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	4	-	4
Cedar	11	-	11
White fir	7	3	10
Total	22	3	25

### SCENIC VISTA: 1 MILE NORTH OF CHINQUAPIN

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
9	Merced River Canyon	58	Low	6.25

This vista is one mile north of Chinquapin and looks into the Merced River Canyon. This view was mostly opened during the 2018 Ferguson Fire but further removal of a few thin live oak snags will improve the view.

## VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	TOTAL
Live oak snag	4	4
Total	4	4

### SCENIC VISTA: RAIL CREEK

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
10	South fork Merced River	69	Low	3.5

The Rail Creek vista is south of Chinquapin near the small ephemeral Rail Creek. This view looks into the South Fork of the Merced River. The view will be feathered 10 meters to the north and south of the vista.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cedar	12	2	14
Fir	8	1	9
Total	20	3	23

**SCENIC VISTA: NORTH OF STRAWBERRY CREEK**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
11	South fork Merced River	68	Low	3.5

The Strawberry Creek vista is north of the small ephemeral Strawberry Creek. This view looks into the South Fork of the Merced River. The view will be feathered 10 meters to the north and south of the vista.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cedar	20	2	22

**SCENIC VISTA: 7 MILES NORTH OF WAWONA**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
12	South Fork Merced River	68	Low	4.25

This vista is seven miles north of Wawona. This view looks into the South Fork of the Merced River. The view will be feathered 10 meters to the north and south of the vista.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	11	11
Cedar	5	5
Total	16	16

**SCENIC VISTA: DEER LICK**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
13	South Fork Merced River	66	Low	4.75

This vista is north of Wawona. This view looks into the South Fork of the Merced River. The view will be feathered 10 meters to the north and south of the vista.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	3	3

**SCENIC VISTA: ALDER CREEK TRAILHEAD**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
14	South Fork Merced River	65	Low	5.25

This vista is north of Wawona at the Alder Creek Trailhead. This view looks into the South Fork of the Merced River. The view will be feathered 10 meters to the north and south of the vista.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	1	-	1
Cedar	14	1	15
Fir	2	-	2
Total	17	1	18

**SCENIC VISTA: MOSQUITO CREEK TRAILHEAD**

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
15	South Fork Merced River	64	Low	4.25

This vista is north of Wawona at the mosquito creek trailhead. The view is of the creek. The view will be feathered 10 meters to the north and south of the vista.

### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

#### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	TOTAL
Cedar	4	4
Fir	3	3
Total	7	7

### SCENIC VISTA: FERRY BEND

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
16	El Capitan, Merced River	44	High	12

Ferry Bend turnout is located on Southside Drive 1.17 miles east of the El Capitan intersection. The turnout is near where Ira Folsom began a ferry in 1871 to cross the Merced River. The vista of the river and El Capitan is a contributing feature to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The vista should be managed from the turnout to allow people to enjoy the view with minimal damage to the vegetation of the riverbank. During a February horsetail fall viewing where hundreds of people crowded the riverbank to capture a photo of the setting sun passing through Horsetail Falls, the riverbank collapsed.

### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

#### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<30" dbh	<40" dbh	<50" dbh	<60" dbh	<70" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	29	59	62	14	3	3	170
Cedar	97	30	21	5	-	1	154
Fir	1	6	2	2	1	-	12
Total	127	95	85	21	4	4	336

### SCENIC VISTA: SENTINEL BRIDGE PARKING

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
17	Cooks Meadow, Yosemite Falls	12	High	11.5

The Sentinel Bridge Parking area is located on the northern side of the Merced River adjacent to Sentinel Bridge on Sentinel Drive. The current Sentinel Bridge Drive was constructed in 1956, bypassing the previous road from the previous bridge, across Cook’s Meadow to Yosemite Falls. The vista dates to the time of the construction of the bridges in this location, and should be considered from the period of 1878. The current parking area, bus stop, and walkways provide excellent opportunity to view Cook’s Meadow and Yosemite Falls. The main vista from this location is Yosemite Falls across Cook’s Meadow. The view of the meadow is as important as the view of the waterfall, and as a result the trees recommended for removal are conifers encroaching the meadow.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;40” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;50” dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	16	20	13	12	61
Cedar	-	10	1	-	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>72</b>

**SCENIC VISTA: STONEMAN MEADOW BOARDWALK**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>18</b>	Royal Arches, North Dome, Washington’s column, Stoneman Meadow	6	High	13.5

The Stoneman Meadow boardwalk is located at the intersection of Happy Isles Loop Road and Curry Village Road. The boardwalk gives visitors a panoramic view of the meadow and many other significant Yosemite landmarks such as Glacier Point, North Dome, Royal Arches, and Washington Column. Half Dome can be seen in the distance to the east and Yosemite Falls can be seen in the distance to the west.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;40” dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	35	46	13	94
Cedar	48	15	3	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>160</b>

**SCENIC VISTA: CHURCH BOWL PICNIC AREA**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>19</b>	Half Dome	11	High	12

The Church Bowl Picnic Area is located on Ahwahnee Drive 0.37 miles west of the Ahwahnee Hotel. A coach road along the north side of the valley was constructed in 1872, although the alignment of the current road is known to date from 1927.

The rockfall hazard zone has recently been updated to include an area further away from the cliff face. Large trees help buffer the impact, and potential damage of rockfall by absorbing some of the force and rock debris. Most of the trees currently obscuring the view are outside of the rock fall zone, on the south side of the road and not effective in protecting any structure. No trees on the north side of the road within the rockfall hazard zone will be removed.

#### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

##### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<30" dbh	<40" dbh	<50" dbh	<60" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	86	12	6	6	4	114
Cedar	130	13	17	10	1	171
Total	216	25	23	16	5	285

#### SCENIC VISTA: HUTCHINGS VIEW B

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
20	Yosemite Falls	158	High	12

Hutchings View B is near the Yosemite Falls shuttle stop at the Hutchings interpretive sign. Trees were cleared from this vista in 2004 to open a viewing corridor for the upper and lower falls, along an axis to where the Old Hutchings View is located. Signs interpreting Hutchings contributions were created and placed near Northside Drive. The intention of this vista is recall the vista as it appeared to Hutchings in 1859, but a conservative year adopted at the Old Hutchings View is 1928, when the layout of the adjacent roads were finalized. Yosemite Creek is adjacent to the vista point so riparian species should not be removed.

#### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

##### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<30" dbh	<40" dbh	<50" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	6	11	1	1	19
Cedar	35	6	2	1	44
Black oak	-	Trim, but do not remove 4	-		-
Total	41	17	3	2	63

#### SCENIC VISTA: YOSEMITE FALLS VIEW



Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
21	Yosemite Falls	18	Medium	8.75

Yosemite Falls View is northeast of the Yosemite Lodge. Trees were cleared as part of the Yosemite Falls approach project in 2005. The intention in managing this vista is to broaden the view to minimize future maintenance needs of trimming, and lessening the alley-like appearance of the trees on the approach to the falls.

#### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

##### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<30" dbh	<40" dbh	<50" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	1	8	11	2	22
Cedar	59	1	4	-	64
Fir	2	3	2	-	7
Total	62	12	17	2	93

#### SCENIC VISTA: SUPERINTENDENTS BRIDGE

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
22	Half dome, North Dome, Merced River	47	High	10.75

The Superintendents Bridge is a footbridge south of the Old Superintendents House (Res 1). The view of Half Dome is blocked by conifers. No riparian species should be removed in management of this vista.

#### VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

##### NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

Tree Species	<20" dbh	<40" dbh	<50" dbh	TOTAL
Ponderosa	3	13	1	17
Cedar	80	6	1	87
Total	83	19	2	104

#### SCENIC VISTA: LEIDIG MEADOW WEST

Number	View of	svmp number	Priority	VRA score
23	North Dome, Washington's Column, Royal Arches, Half Dome, Sentinel Rock	31	High	11.75

The vista is on a trail about 50 meters south of the Valley loop trail at the west end of Leidig Meadow, about 1 mile west of the Yosemite Lodge. It is a remarkable point in which a visitor can see many of the Yosemite Valley’s incredible geologic formations from one location, across a large meadow. The intention is to remove conifers encroaching in the meadow. It is difficult to assign a date to this location. Leidig Meadow has a long history of use including serving as the location for a US Army camp when the headquarters were moved to the Valley in 1906. The meadow was fenced for grazing shortly after, and at one point was the location of a horse race track. A conservative year from which the vista can be managed is 1928, when the circulation pattern in the valley was generally set.

In the MRP, 19 trees were proposed for removal. A field visit shows that the removal of 19 trees would not enhance the view. The foreground of the view is blocked by over 30 trees 20” dbh and less. The trees in the background (the edge of the meadow) that creates a long view between leidig and cooks meadow is blocked by 6 trees <50” dbh and 6 trees <40” dbh. It is believed that between the time of the assessment (2002) and present, that many of the trees reached a larger size class.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;12” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;20” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;40” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;50” dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	4	35	4	12	6	19
Total						19

**SCENIC VISTA: SENTINEL MEADOW BOARDWALK**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
24	Yosemite Falls	24	High	13.5

The Sentinel Meadow Boardwalk is located on Southside drive 2.3 miles east of the El Capitan crossover. Views from Sentinel Meadow are listed as contributing features in the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The vista is above the south bank of the Merced River looking at Yosemite Falls. This vista was partially restored in 2018. However, an insufficient number of trees were identified in the Merced River Plan to restore the view. At present, the 2018 view looks similar to the 2017 view. Further depth is required to enhance the view.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;30” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;40” dbh</b>	<b>&lt;50” dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ponderosa	3	18	7	28
Cedar	3	4	0	7
Total	6	22	7	35

**SCENIC VISTA: ILLILHOUETTE FALL FOOTBRIDGE**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>25</b>	Illilhoette Fall	30	Medium	8.25

Illilhoette Fall View is located on the Mist Trail between the trailhead at Happy Isles and the Vernal Fall Bridge. The trail on the south side of the river was built in 1885 by George Anderson, and reworked by the Park Service in 1928. This vista is from a viewing area to the falls that is almost completely blocked. The trees recommended for removal are on the opposite side of the river.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

**NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED**

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;30" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;40" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;50" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cedar		1	-	1	2
Fir	10	9	4	-	23
Total		10	4	1	25

**SCENIC VISTA: VERNAL FALL FOOTBRIDGE**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>26</b>	Vernal Fall	29	Medium	7.25

The Vernal Fall footbridge is located on the Mist Trail approximately 0.75 miles from the trailhead. At present there are conifers encroaching from the north, but these are within Wilderness and will not be removed. There are several small maples on the south side of the river that will be trimmed to enhance the view.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

**NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED**

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Maple	6 trim	6 trim

**SCENIC VISTA: LEMBERT DOME PARKING**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
<b>27</b>	Unicorn Peak	106	Medium	8.75

The Lembert Dome parking area on the eastern edge of Tuolumne Meadow, north of Tioga Road at the base of Lembert Dome, has a great view of Unicorn Peak to the southwest. The vista of the mountains is partially obscured by lodgepole pine with many small lodgepole pines establishing in the foreground. The goal of this vista clearing is to remove the many small established lodgepole pines before they grow taller and displace the view.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;10" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lodgepole	many	10	many
Total			

**SCENIC VISTA: TUOLUMNE MEADOW TRAIL TO PARSON'S LODGE**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
28	Lembert Dome, Cathedral Peak, Tuolumne Meadows	107	High	10.5

The Tuolumne Meadow Trail to Parson's Memorial Lodge view area is located north of Tioga Road approximately one mile west of the Lembert Dome parking area. Lembert Dome to the east is the primary focal point of this vista, but the Cathedral Range can also be seen.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;10" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lodgepole	many	10	Many

**SCENIC VISTA: POTHOLE DOME TURNOUT**

<b>Number</b>	<b>View of</b>	<b>svmp number</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>VRA score</b>
28	Tuolumne Meadows, Mammoth Peak, Mt Gibbs	108	High	13

The Pothole Dome turnout is on Tioga Road at the west end of Tuolumne Meadows, immediately south of Pothole Dome. Although dominated by the nearby Pothole Dome, the primary vista is across the meadow to Lembert Dome, Mount Gibbs, Mammoth Peak, and ridges beyond. The Wilderness boundary is 60m from the centerline of the road and no actions to manage vista will take place in Wilderness. Within one kilometer of the viewing area, hundreds of small lodgepole pines have established which will ultimately block the view of the meadow. Pine seedlings that have established outside of Wilderness will be removed. The view will be feathered along the road to the north of the turnout as lodgepole pines are growing in the road fill. This project will be coordinated with removal of lodgepoles across Tuolumne Meadows.

**VISTA MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

NUMBER OF TREES TO BE REMOVED

<b>Tree Species</b>	<b>&lt;10" dbh</b>	<b>&lt;20" dbh</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lodgepole	many	10	10