



Meeting Summary Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan San Francisco Community Workshop

November 9, 2011

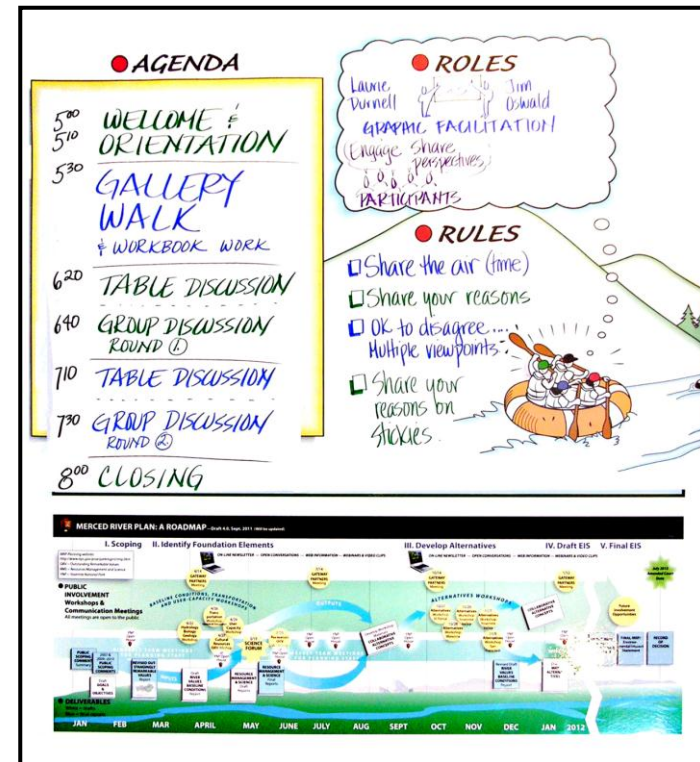




EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Merced River Plan will provide overarching guidance for river protection and public use within the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor inside Yosemite National Park. The overall goal of the plan is to “protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated wild and scenic leaving the river unimpaired for future generations.” The San Francisco Community Workshop is one of six meetings held in October and November 2011 to gather community input on preliminary management considerations and options. This feedback will be used in the next phase of the project - development of alternatives. Draft alternatives will be available for public review in the Spring of 2012 and will be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement to be released in Summer 2012. Community input received during scoping in 2007, and between 2009 and 2011; and during the community workshops in Spring 2011 will also be considered in developing alternatives. The alternatives will also reflect data from the numerous scientific and socio-cultural studies that have occurred over the past year. Ultimately, each alternative must reflect the goals of the Merced River Plan and protect and enhance the river’s outstandingly remarkable biological, geologic/hydrologic, cultural, scenic, and recreational values, as well as water quality and the river’s free flowing condition.



Merced River Plan: San Francisco Workshop

The San Francisco Workshop for the Merced River Plan was held on November 9, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This was the fifth of five community workshops (there were also web meetings) held in October and November 2011 to address the Merced River Plan. Approximately 42 participants attended the workshop. About half had been following the Merced River Plan with



eight of those people following the plan for over 10 years. Four participants attended the spring workshops in Yosemite and three participants were new to the Merced River Plan.

The San Francisco workshop had four parts:

- Part 1: Welcome and Orientation (detailed description is included in Appendix 1: Meeting Notes on page A1-1) – This part of the workshop included an overview of the agenda; a description of the planning workbook including the planning process, Merced River Plan goals, and outstandingly remarkable values; and an explanation of the display board exercise.
- Part 2: Open House – Participants reviewed the display boards and the Merced Wild and Scenic River Planning Workbook and commented on the Merced River management options. Participants also used colored dots to identify which options they wanted to discuss in the group discussions. Comments received on the various management options are included in Appendix 2: Display Board Comments beginning on page A2-1.
- Part 3: Small Group Discussion – Participants gathered in small groups to discuss the management options of greatest interest to them based upon the placement of their colored dots. The topics that emerged as most important to this group are listed below. The small group comments are incorporated into this Executive Summary and are included in their entirety in Appendix 1: Meeting Notes, page A1-2.
 - Camping and Camping Demand (Management Considerations 9, 11, 12, 14, 19 and 23)
 - El Cap Meadow Informal Trails (Management Consideration 21)
 - Intersection Congestion (Management Considerations 15 and 20)
 - Paddling and Floating (Management Consideration 18)
 - Bridges (Management Considerations 10 and 17)





Floating and Paddling/Large Woody Debris

With a few exceptions, this group generally supported some form of floating and paddling stating it was an historic use that was inexpensive and allowed people to be close to nature. Most felt that there needed to be some areas for floating and paddling where large woody debris was removed and other areas where boating was prohibited. Suggestions for accommodating both boating and large woody debris were guided trips where the guide could avoid the large woody debris; having zones and times for different intensities of water activities; and leaving some portions of the river free of boating so that visitors could enjoy a tranquil river experience.

“Only a small population of American youth have stood in a free-flowing river. This is a very powerful experience for young children and may create stewardship for a lifetime and a connection to the place. Need opportunities to make water available.”

Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

Participants in this meeting did not have strong negative or positive feelings about the High Sierra Camp. Impacts of mules were considered a problem that should be resolved. Several people mentioned that the High Sierra Camp issue needed more studying to understand the impacts and the appropriateness of its location in the wilderness. Others felt that the High Sierra Camp offered an experience that some people might not have otherwise.

Bridges

This group felt that the bridges were historic resources that could likely be cultural ORVs and should be protected. One person mentioned the significant cost of removing bridges.

El Cap Meadow

Most participants mentioned the need for boardwalks and viewing platforms in El Cap Meadow both to provide for visitors and climbers who gather there, and to protect the resources.

Transportation and Congestion





Participants in this group agreed that transportation and congestion were significant problems. Most agreed that there should be incentives (e.g. discounted lodging, reserved walk-in sites, etc.) provided for people who use public transportation and hike or bike into the park. Traffic lights were not supported as they do not fit with the natural experience however, bridges and under-crossings were acceptable congestion solutions.



APPENDIX 1: MEETING NOTES

Part 1: Welcome and Orientation

Laurie Durnell of The Grove Consultants International welcomed the group and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear from the participants about what is important to them about different aspects of the Merced River Plan. She provided an overview of the agenda and mentioned that this was the fifth of six community meetings with webinars to be held during the week of November 14, 2011.

Jim Oswald, also of The Grove reviewed the planning process indicating that this was the middle of the planning process.

Laurie Durnell provided an overview of the workbook and the boards in the room noting that the first part of the workbook orients the reader to the Merced River Plan. The middle section provides a set of management options to address various issues within the river corridor. The final pages of the workbook are designed to provide feedback to the Park Service.



Laurie reviewed the color coding of the goals and stated that the management considerations and options would need to address potentially competing goals. She mentioned that the river's outstandingly remarkable values were those that the park must protect and that the management considerations identify where there are issues and challenges around these values. The management options provide a number of ways to address these challenges.

Jim Oswald explained the Open House exercise. He requested participants review the management considerations and options that have been developed for each river segment. Participants were asked to place a green dot on options they felt were going in the right direction and a red dot on those options that were not. The red and green dots indicated how many participants were interested in a particular option and wanted to discuss it with the larger group.



Part 2: Open House

Participants spent approximately an hour placing dots and comments on the interactive boards. Each board addressed management considerations for one of the river segments and included an area to comment on the potential management considerations and options for that segment. Not all management options received comments. Comments are included in Appendix 2 for those management options where comments were received. Participants also placed comments and dots on the preliminary site plans for Yosemite Valley, Abbeville Trailer Court, and Old El Portal. These are also included in Appendix 2.

Part 3: Small Group Discussions

Laurie Durnell of The Grove identified the management considerations that were of greatest interest to the group. These were:

- Camping and Camping Demand (Management Considerations 9, 11, 12, 14, 19 and 23)
- El Cap Meadow Informal Trails (Management Consideration 21)
- Intersection Congestion (Management Considerations 15 and 20)
- Paddling and Floating (Management Consideration 18)
- Bridges (Management Considerations 10 and 17)

Camping

The first small group discussion addressed camping. Each table group discussed camping and then reported their findings to the large group.

- *“Have a drop off campground. Parking is concentrated, drive to campsite drop off stuff and put car back in lot. Benefit - camping in a place that isn’t a parking lot. It can be denser because you only need a place for tents and quieter because people aren’t using car stereos. Have one perimeter road to access a cluster of campsites.”*
- *“No way to get to walk-in camping area if you take YARTS. Provide camping spaces to those who are using YARTS.”*





- *“More ecologically friendly campsites. Remedy things that make existing campsites unpleasant – smoke, exhaust.”*
- *“Yosemite Valley represents the pinnacle experience for most people but it is seriously constrained. To avoid this, some people drive to Yosemite in the day, hike all night and leave in the morning.”*
- *“Some of the solution is expanding camping in Gateway Communities. This could break up travel and experience. Need to complement and expand opportunities beyond the Valley.”*
- *“2/3 of people (in one small group) wanted to expand camping outside of Valley.”*
- *“Difficult to separate camping discussion from overall carrying capacity of the Valley. Need to consider impacts on the Valley and the resource.”*
- *“Similar conversation (in this small group) about pros and cons of adding camping in Valley. One person against adding camping in Valley. Will always be more demand than supply. Adding sites is not the answer. Locations for new sites – in flood plain or previously damaged by floods. Adding facilities in high risk areas not the best idea.”*
- *“Incentivize using public transit to get to camping.”*
- *“The current 40% camping and 60% lodging breakdown doesn’t feel quite right. Some accommodations feel like they belong in a resort. What is the difference between park and resort? Camping is a form of recreation – this entails work. Lodging facilitates recreation. In a hotel room you are consuming personal services provided by others. Recreation belongs in a park and lodging belongs in a resort. NPS policies say – “purpose of recreation is to bring people into direct contact with park resources.” Hierarchy of values of accommodations that facilitates activities that have people in contact with resources. We have something that represents a commercial value not park policy. Lodging is in the best spots. Turn dialog around and think of overnight accommodations that bring people in contact with park resources.”*
- *“Should be a hierarchy that values camping more than the value of accommodations.”*
- *“Reduce lodging to facilitate camping.”*
- *“Establish a parking facility for RVs and large campers. With or without hookups. Have more camping and less motor vehicles.”*



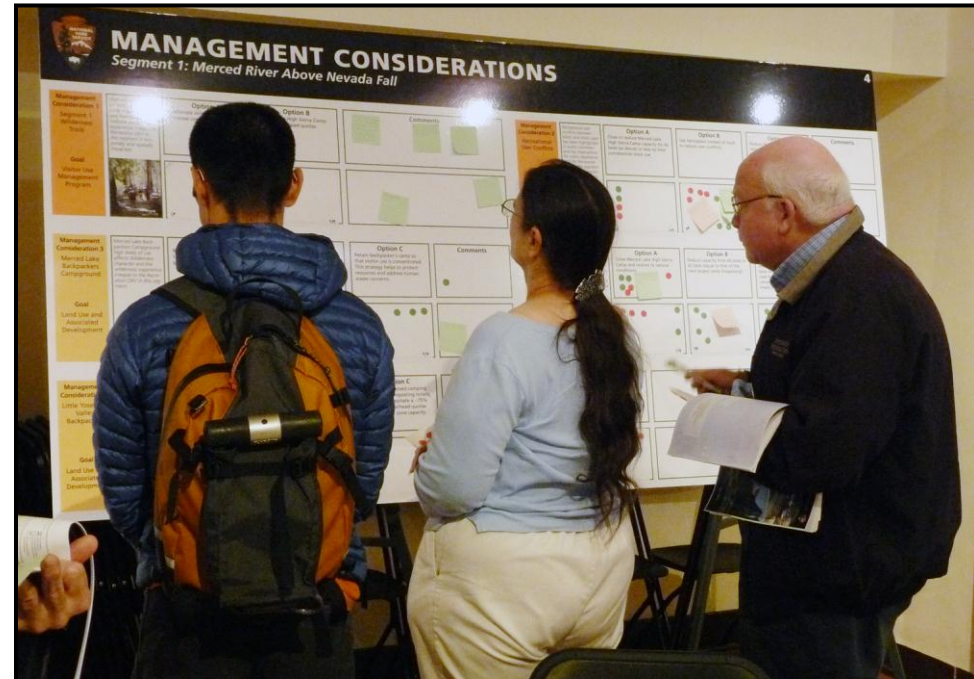
- *“Create zoned camping. Places for RVs with generators, others with tent camping. Rustic camping is the way to connect people to the place. Great way to create stewards for parks. Allows campers to interact with each other. Come away enriched – important for parks and their support.”*
- *“To reduce traffic and congestion – if you aren’t going to stay overnight you can’t bring your car in. Have day users leave cars outside. Shuttle takes people into valley for the day and back out.”*
- *“Expand camping – expand camping at least to the number lost in the flood. Right now it’s hard to get a reservation. I want my grandchildren to enjoy camping.”*

Part 4: Large Group Discussion

Following completion of the camping discussion, each table was asked to discuss any of the issues on the list above and report back on their findings.

Floating and Paddling

- *“Paddling – sections between Cathedral and Pohono Bridges that could be expanded and would be good for beginning and intermediate paddlers and canoes.”*
- *“Keep paddling and floating as part of the Yosemite experience. If there are designated areas, you have to clean out debris but it is a family thing that people enjoy. Keep it.”*
- *“Only a small population of American youth have stood in a free flowing river. This is a very powerful experience for young children. May create stewardship for a lifetime and a connection to the place. Need opportunities to make the water available – good interpretive signs.”*





- *“Offer rafting trips with guides such as a naturalist. This would encourage good sustained stewardship. Offer kayaking lessons.”*
- *“Offer a range of experiences on the river. AM is for kids and families, later people go more alone and spread out.”*
- *“Catch 22 – if you have more boaters if you have woody debris issue. If you have guided trips then you have an expert that can avoid the woody debris.”*
- *“Alternatively – having more guided rafting and floating you are valuing paying for the experience rather than just playing in the river. Needs to be a balance between paid concessioner activities and experience that is just part of the outdoors.”*
- *“Have one section of general public floating where you remove woody debris. Another section for those on guided trips Balance everyone enjoying the river freely with guided trips to allow more woody debris.”*
- *“Want people to freely enjoy the river but need to balance.”*
- *“If you leave woody debris in, it is a risk, even with a commercial guide. Need a free flowing area where people can enjoy it. Have more enforcement where it isn’t allowed and then places where it’s available to everyone.”*

Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

- *“What are the various perspectives in the group about Merced Lake High Sierra Camp? What is the legal aspect of why it is in wilderness and how to measure impacts. Has research been conducted to see if they are entitled to remain? Value of that experience to people who otherwise couldn’t get to such a place- this can’t be measured by science. Need a better understanding of impacts before making a conclusion.”*
- *“Impacts from the mules. People don’t like manure and erosion on trails. Explore the Appalachian Mountain Club for resupply model. They helicopter in staples before Memorial Day. All resupply by human porters. Brings people into park in a different way. Wouldn’t replace all the mule use but might reduce the number of mules.”*
- *“There are recreational horse people that use the stable as staging area. You can make a complete loop. How can you say they can do this and can’t restock with mules? Horses and livestock have been in this park since beginning. Needs to be a balance between user groups. Backcountry horsemen use these trails.”*
- *“Housekeeping camp – ugly. What can be done? Gone? Reduced? It should go away it is so ugly.”*



Bridges

- *“ORVs are basis for making management decisions. Cultural values highlighted – native American and archeological resources. Valley history extends into modern era. Regionally and nationally significant. Yosemite Valley cultural landscape district has been identified. Key part is circulation system and associated bridges. Bridges are river related and dependent and need to be identified as ORVs. NPS mandate – protect cultural resources.”*

El Cap Meadow

- *“Have rotating, movable fencing and boardwalks to allow rest and rehab for areas of meadow.”*
- *“Emphasize El Cap Bridge as a viewing point to observe climbers.”*
- *“Need a shuttle to El Cap Meadow and to Valley View.”*
- *“Boardwalk viewing platform.”*
- *“Two types of actions – some people want to stand and view El Cap but for climbers it is a rejoining point. Have a hardened viewing platform but have an area around it where people could sit on the grass. Should not impact wildlife with this.”*
- *“Make sure meadow remains accessible and parking is not restricted but a boardwalk would be OK.”*
- *“Signage OK to direct visitor use. Boardwalks that aren’t visually intrusive are OK.”*
- *“Why aren’t we addressing the social trails along the river?”*

Jim Oswald closed the meeting by encouraging the group to add any additional comments to the desktop maps. All information collected will be compiled to be used in developing alternatives. Next steps are to develop alternatives this winter with an alternatives newsletter in the spring. The Draft EIS will be released in the Summer of 2012.



Tabletop Worksheets

Each table group was provided with a worksheet divided into sections for each river segment (Segment 1, Segment 2, Segment 4 and Segment 5 through 8). During the small group exercises participants were asked to add comments to the worksheet as they saw fit. The following are the comments sorted by topic as written by meeting participants.

Floating and Paddling/Large Woody Debris

- *“#18 – Parking and Floating – Forget permits! Keep current usual float area – clear floating debris there for safety. Enforce no paddling or floating elsewhere.”*
- *“Some sections of the valley river should be raft free so people can appreciate the tranquil river from road and trail. We can’t reach the Little Yosemite anymore.”*
- *“Woody debris – primary goal is to protect and preserve the river – so leave the debris. Guides if needed to raft and kayak.”*
- *“Rivers are inherently dangerous. You should know what you are doing if you get in – leave woody debris. Also, if you make the river seem benign in the Valley, creates a sense of complacency in the more dangerous areas.”*
- *“Have a section of the river closed to rafting altogether so people can still walk along the river and enjoy the natural sounds and elements of the river.”*
- *“Private boaters present greater probability of introducing invasive species than in park commercial boars.”*
- *“Can’t do both well – rafting and large woody debris for natural processes.”*
- *“Need to find the middle ground – rafting/large woody debris; high value recreation and important for natural resource.”*
- *“Prohibiting all paddling – not a great idea. Like idea of private boating.”*
- *“‘Hardsiding’ river bank at Sentinel Beach.”*
- *“Designated areas for kayaks – some areas open to floating permitted.”*
- *“Focus on water play seems on concessioner rafting program and less on family water play.”*



- *“Manage river less as pool and more as a wild river.”*
- *“Large wood needs to be removed for commercial floating operations.”*
- *“Fewer pool toys in river. Guided boating trips. Kayak, canoes are not as damaging to resources as rafting.”*
- *“Long history of floating – close to nature – great experience, inexpensive.”*
- *“Permit system for floating not supported – onerous, expensive.”*

Merced Lake High Sierra Camp

- *“MLHSC offers an opportunity to people that might not otherwise go to the Wilderness Areas. They present an opportunity that 95% of HSC users would not otherwise have.”*
- *“Could we replicate staying at HSC somewhere other than within the corridor?”*
- *“Look for ways to separate stock use from HSC from the backpackers.”*
- *“Trails are being maintained in order to keep the HSC access. This is creating greater impacts to trails because of a vicious loop of maintenance and use of HSC feeding off each other.”*
- *“Proposed designated wilderness should be considered in regards to HSC special allocation – has not been assessed by the Park and must be in the Wilderness Plan.”*
- *“The HSC needs to be studied in terms of the impacts to water quality, soils, etc.”*
- *“Feel that HSC can be sustainable and not have as much impact.”*
- *“High Sierra Camp – convert cold food service only if it will decrease stock need. Stock animals’ feces could be collected in bags under tails like in Central Park.”*

Bridges

- *“Concerned about proposals to remove historic bridges, more so not for articulating bridges as ORVs.”*
- *“Bridges part of cultural landscape – need to be protected as part of river-related system.”*



El Cap Meadow

- *“El Cap Meadow – 1) viewing platform 2) grassy area for sitting 3)movable fenced path.”*
- *“Fencing at El Cap Meadow is impediment to wildlife activities.”*
- *“Boardwalks and fencing at El Cap Meadow needs to take climber ritual into consideration.”*
- *“Moveable boardwalks allow for regeneration.”*
- *“Fallow/furlough for social trails to rotate use to reduce impacts.”*
- *“El Cap Bridge should be emphasized as viewing area rather than meadow.”*
- *“Curbing/boulder barriers to decrease parking impacts on El Cap Meadow.”*
- *“Climbers use of El Cap Meadow is an important part of ritual experience.”*
- *“Meadow is being adversely impacted – need signage to direct use.”*
- *“Boardwalks that aren’t visually intrusive would be acceptable to channel people.”*
- *“Social trailing in meadows is problem, but so are visitor use trails along riparian corridor.”*
- *“#21 – Informal Trails – No fencing. Use boardwalks. Do not limit roadside parking. Public access is important.”*

Camping and Camping Demand/Lodging

- *“Potential to use/expand Yellow Pine as additional camping areas?”*
- *“How fun do campgrounds get along Tioga Road?”*
- *“Enjoy high country camping – different type of beautiful.”*
- *“Mix of accommodations is good. Brings people of different backgrounds and interests.”*
- *“Park directives to support direct interactions with park resources – 1) backpacking, 2)walk-in sites, car camping 3)RVs and lodging. These should be the park’s priorities.”*



- *“Put campsites back from the river.”*
- *“Reduce stock use and increase/repurpose camping at stables area.”*
- *“Please prioritize walk-in campsites because they are the least represented kinds of camping in the Valley.”*
- *“Is there a way to add some campsites back in the Valley without impacting river values and the goals of restoration?”*
- *“There should be more mid-priced lodging (that is) expand Yosemite Lodge.”*
- *“While camping allows for the maximum interaction (exposure) with nature, but for the older generation those with health issues and handicaps, lodging makes the park accessible. Do not eliminate lodging capacity.”*
- *“Housekeeping Camp is an eyesore.”*
- *“More walk-in (non RV) options.”*
- *“Eco-friendly campgrounds are good.”*
- *“Camping in valley in last few years – smoky, crowded, too dense already.”*
- *“East Valley camping – maybe concentrated use here is better ecologically than dispersing it somewhere.”*
- *“Segregation of campers is desirable – RVs, car camping, walk-in, eco.”*
- *“Out-of-valley camping is supported – surrounding USFS land, Foresta, Crane Flat.”*
- *“Would like to see more walk-in campgrounds or campgrounds that are removed from RVs and cars.”*
- *“Bulldoze housekeeping and turn it into car/tent camping.”*
- *“Campgrounds should not be built back in the flood plans. They will flood again and whose generation will pay? This is not a long term solution and is only temporary. Do the right thing once.”*
- *“If future Yosemite visitation is based on permitting or limiting access to Yosemite Valley should not follow current camping system in the Valley because it turns the valley into a private area for those who are already frequent users and does not allow new folks or spontaneous visitors from enjoying Yosemite Valley. A system similar to Tuolumne Campground is better.”*



- *“Like to camp but can’t find a place to stay – so coming into the valley at night and leaving at dawn allows 1) to avoid crowds and 2) don’t need to camp/lodge.”*
- *“The allocation of camping, lodging, Half Dome permits is not equitable. Getting the reservations is very challenging particularly if you want friends/groups to go with you.”*
- *“The Valley is unique to the camping experience. Exchanging other areas outside the valley is not equivalent.”*
- *“Like to improve the attractiveness of campgrounds outside the Valley to increase demands for those areas.”*
- *“Work more closely with Forest Service to develop Gateway camping and mutually support park attendance.”*
- *“More camping in Valley won’t satiate demand. Putting more people in Valley is not good.”*
- *“Camping for balance of economics. Campgrounds less expensive than other lodging.”*
- *“Consider having campgrounds with pit toilets and bring-your-own water to have more campground options while minimizing impacts. Explore technologies.”*
- *“Why put camping back in places that were flood damaged? They were damaged indicating they are a vulnerable area.”*
- *“Turn Yellow Pine into walk-in camping.”*
- *“Out of valley campgrounds in corridor from Mariposa.”*
- *“Aging demographic cannot physically carry equipment to walk-in sites. Rivers Campgrounds to be drop off campgrounds with external parking.”*
- *“Need more walk-in campsites.”*
- *“Walk to camping – no car needed, no parking needed.”*
- *“Swinging Bridge “day camping” – ethnically diverse groups families. Helps inspire generations of stewards.”*
- *“Lodging is more appropriate out of the park (as opposed to camping).”*
- *“Camping is not just overnight accommodations but recreational activity.”*
- *“Drop-off campsites would reduce camper/RV conflicts.”*



- *“Cooking and campfires are important values.”*
- *“Campfires are a problem for air quality.”*
- *“Will air quality impacts be addressed in this plan? Especially from campfires, vehicles.”*
- *“Some visitors – international – cannot come with camping gear. Need variety of accommodations.”*
- *“Impact of additional camping near lodge in regards to congestion.”*

Transportation and Congestion

- *“Camping options near Yosemite Lodge might increase congestion.”*
- *“Don’t want to see number of visitors dealt with by building large parking lots in West Valley.”*
- *“Seasonality – only congested in summer. Need to include this as a consideration in planning. Equates to extra infrastructure and impact unneeded for much of the year.”*
- *“More bike paths and incentives to get out of the car. Build designated bikeways beyond east end of the Valley. Use “sharrows” – new bike share lane.”*
- *“Discount lodging if you take YARTS in, bike in, hike in.”*
- *“Couple/incentive for people on regional transit to get a walk-in site.”*
- *“Idea: Lottery for being able to drive in as a day user.”*
- *“Congestion – making traffic flow faster or easier encourages more cars.”*
- *“Don’t construct large parking lots in Yosemite Valley.”*
- *“RV only parking would be filled with auto and walking camp reducing RVs would be a better way to have more people connecting with the river.”*
- *“Transportation is foundational. Can’t discuss possibilities without transportation plan.”*
- *“Tour buses are some of the lowest impact visitors because they come in/leave and almost never leave the asphalt.”*



- *“Shuttles start earlier for alpine start activities.”*
- *“Shuttle to Valley View.”*
- *“Only restrict traffic into Valley after a certain time (e.g. 9 a.m.)”*
- *“Regular shuttles to parking outside Valley.”*
- *“YARTS coordination with campground reservations.”*
- *“People taking public transportation can’t get walk-in campsites because they arrive too late.”*
- *“Traffic lights, electronic crossings NOT SUPPORTED. Would damage experience.”*
- *“Roundabout is preferred solution for Camp 6.”*
- *“Pedestrian undercrossing at Yosemite Lodge would be supported.”*
- *“Visual impact of stoplights and/or pedestrian crossing would be extremely negative for natural and historical experience.”*
- *“Grade separated pedestrian crossing at Yosemite Lodge.”*
- *“Roundabouts should be considered to relieve congestion.”*
- *“No signalized intersection.”*
- *“Limiting parking at El Cap meadow would constrain historic use.”*

Historic and Cultural Resources

- *“Assess and consider historic significance of facilities in determining what stays and what goes.”*

Day Use

- *“Day use areas – interpretive signs to protect resources.”*
- *“Need to have day use picnic area at Superintendent’s Bridge.”*



Other

- *“National parks important for sharing with foreign visitors.”*



APPENDIX 2: DISPLAY BOARD COMMENTS

SEGMENT 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 1: Segment 1 Wilderness Trails: High Encounter Rates

General Comments:

- *“Develop other trails.”*
- *“Would the wilderness permits automatically go to people hiking to Merced Lake HSC? Or would there be a quota for each – Merced Lake HSC and backpackers?”*
- *“Measure horse impact before considering any decrease for walkers.”*

Management Consideration 2: Recreational User Conflicts

Management Option 2B: Use helicopters instead of stock to reduce user conflicts.

- *“Helicopter is the easiest way to encroach upon ORVs in a wilderness setting. Beyond lifesaving efforts, helicopter use should be minimized (says someone who has spent many hours flying above Yosemite wilderness in a helicopter).”*
- *“Consider using human porters, like the Appalachian Mountain Club does to restock their cabins. Would bring youth to work in the park.”*
- *“Consider helicopters two times – camp opening and shut down only. This would reduce stock use considerably.”*

Management Option 2C: Reduce the extent of trails maintained for stock in this area, which would in turn reduce the number of stock needed to maintain them.

- *“It’s the right answer but this is wrong. Stock use is most related to HSC resupply use and guests.”*

Other Comments:

- *“Allow stock use – horses.”*



Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 4: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp: Wilderness and ORV Impacts

Management Option 4A: Close Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and restore to natural conditions.

- *“Need to complete assessment of condition per Congressional request – 1984.”*

Management Option 4B: Reduce capacity from 60 beds to 42 beds (equal to that of the next largest camp (Vogelsang).

- *“HSCs may be the only wilderness travel option to some visitors.”*
- *“Add more trails to access location. There is a lot of wilderness area in YNP and Sierras where you won’t meet anyone if you don’t want to. This High Sierra Camp is unique. Don’t level it.”*
- *“Meals only HSC reservations allowed me to hike with my young sons. Not everyone can afford the HSC fee per night.”*

Management Consideration 5: Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers’ Campground: Crowding

Management Option 5B: Retain backpacker’s camp so that visitor use is concentrated. This strategy helps to protect resources and address human waste concerns.

- *“Any camping possibilities over by Lost Lake?”*

SEGMENT 2.1: East Yosemite Valley

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Option 7: Riparian Zone: Campsites

Management Option 7A: Relocate or remove campsites that are within the ordinary high water mark and the riparian zone. Design river access points in resilient location and restore riparian areas to natural conditions.

- *“Don’t remove campgrounds until a replacement is in operation.”*
- *“Look at Yellow Pine and out of area campgrounds for modest expansion. Maintain as much restoration in riparian/river zone as possible.”*



- *“Ok only is sites are relocated elsewhere.”*

Management Option 7B: Delineate parking and tent pads at existing infrastructure and locate infrastructure as far from river as possible. Design river access points in resilient locations.

- *“Design more rustic walk-in sites that don’t require a lot of infrastructure.”*
- *“Group Camps North Pines needs to be opened up to individual campers after Labor Day.”*

Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values

Management Consideration 8: Cultural ORV: Visitor Use and Infrastructure

Management Option 8A: Relocate visitor use areas where practicable to remove potential threats and disturbances to traditional cultural practices and values.

- *“The need is to provide cultural space to cultural practitioners. The limitation to this is that they are correctly dubious of NPS motivation in the consultation process. Need to consult all traditional Yosemite natives.”*

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 9: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 9A: Develop new campgrounds in places such as, north of Upper Pines Campground , between Southside Dr. and the Upper Pines Campground concessionaire (Stables Area) and/or expanding backpackers camp.

- *“Separate RVs and car/tent campers – ban bike riding on nonpaved areas in camps.”*
- *“Rustic campgrounds connect people more powerfully to the places and its ecosystems.”*
- *“Consider new campgrounds at Yellow Pine, Sentinel Beach, etc. west of existing infrastructure – walk in OK.”*



Management Option 9B: In addition to Management Option 1, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds out of the Valley.

- *“Consider closing off the road along the Medial Moraine , put parking at the stables and have campsites on either side of the closed medial moraine road.”*
- *“Yes! Campgrounds out of valley but not necessarily in addition to Option A.”*
- *“Consider “Vinneyville” east of the Ahwahnee for camping. Also the old group site.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 10: Sugar Pine Bridge/Ahwahnee Bridge/Road Berm: Free Flowing Condition

Management Option 10A: Remove Sugar Pine Bridge, road berm, and Ahwahnee Bridge and re-route road/trail to the north bank of the river.

- *“Emergency response routes needed?”*
- *“The bridges are on National Register and should be identified as ORVs. They should be preserved with consideration for high water overflow channel.”*
- *“The cultural ORVs are significant but the valley’s highly significant historic resources are overlooked. YV is a national register eligible historic landscape.”*
- *“Bridges are contributing element of cultural landscape. The landscape needs to be treated cohesively.”*

Management Option 10C: Replace both existing bridges with foot bridges designed to protect and enhance the free-flowing condition of the river.

- *“An expensive solution in these times.”*
- *“Backpackers are already treated like crap, having to walk so far to camp. Don’t cut off their access.”*



SEGMENT 2.2: Yosemite Village Area

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 11: Housekeeping Camp: Riparian and Flood Plain Impacts

Management Option 11A: Strategically remove up to 93 lodging units and associated currently located within the riparian area. Where possible, relocate these lodging units to another more resilient location within Yosemite Valley.

- *“Housekeeping Camp has one of the most swimmable areas of the river and sandy beaches. Visitors not staying in housekeeping don’t think they can use that stretch of river.”*

Management Option 11B: Remove 68 lodging units adjacent to the river, as outlined in the 1980 General Management Plan.

- *“This infers GMP advocates an additional 68 units to be removed. There are about 50 fewer units than when GMP was written. I believe that this statement is in error.”*

Management Consideration 12: Upper and Lower Rivers Campground Areas: 1997 Flood Impacts

Management Option 12A: Provide visitor use opportunities and access (camping, parking, and picnic areas) to only the northern portion of the former campgrounds, away from the riparian and floodplain ecosystem.

- *“Open upper river to day use.”*
- *“OK only if no reduction in number of sites.”*
- *“I support riparian and floodplain restoration over new campgrounds.”*
- *“Low impact rustic camping helps people to connect people strongly to the natural surroundings and other campers.”*

Management Option 12B: Restore visitor use opportunities (camping, parking and picnic areas) throughout the former Upper and Lower Rivers campgrounds, locating infrastructure above the high water mark and outside of the riparian area.

- *“Move motor homes to parking lot. They don’t use tables or pits or outside air.”*

Other Comments:

- *“Expand group camp adjacent to stables to the farthest extend inland along the river.”*



Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values

Management Consideration 13: Cultural ORV: Visitor Use Impacts

Management Option 13A: Relocate visitor use areas where practicable to avoid on-going threats and disturbances. Conduct regular condition assessment monitoring.

- *“Oyster farming should be allowed in the Merced in Yosemite Valley.”*
- *“Given the unspecified archeological sites in this description the definition would rule out stock use such as day rides, hiking and camping ANYWHERE in riparian habitat – most of the Valley.”*

Management Option 13B: Stabilize archeological sites where practicable to prevent additional loss of data. Construct fencing or other deterrent to discourage visitor activities on sensitive locations within the sites. Conduct regular monitoring.

- *“Add soil layer to protect cultural sites. Don’t use their presence as a pretext to prevent use.”*

Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 14: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 14A: Reestablish camping at the former Rivers Campground.

- *“Think long term! Cost of next flood? Your generation or mine?”*
- *“Designate more areas tent only. Keep RVs in current Upper Pines only.”*
- *“Offer more walk-in and walk-to rustic campsites.”*
- *“Prioritize walk-in camping and backpacker camping since they are the most under-represented.”*



Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 15: Camp 6 Intersection: Congestion

Management Option 15A: Design a round-about and pedestrian under-crossing to address intersection performance. Due to space considerations, this would likely require that the Concessioner Headquarters be moved.

- *“Camp 6 is part of the river. Consider it as a natural restoration project. It is not a parking lot.”*
- *“Day user should park and ride, campers and lodge stays can drive in – like Zion and Denali (sort of).”*
- *“Move all day use parking out of the valley. Add camping at Camp 6 and Curry Orchard.”*
- *“Bridges and under-crossings instead of stoplights.”*

SEGMENT 2.3: Yosemite Lodge Area

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 16: Leidig Meadow: Informal Trail Impacts

Management Option 16A: Remove social trails and restore meadows. Install boardwalks to prevent future impacts. Fence bike path on north side of Swinging Bridge.

- *“Many visitors seem to ignore “restoration area” signs.”*
- *“Boardwalks are working in other areas of Yosemite and vegetation has returned.”*

Management Consideration 17: Swinging Bridge: Riparian Impacts

Management Option 17A: Re-design picnic area in its current location. Identify additional parking on the south side of South Side Drive. Designate the area as a formal river access point.

- *“Option A – South side parking. Consider difficulty/safety of crossing road to access picnic area.”*
- *“Swinging Bridge is heavily used by large extended family groups – day users. It’s a fantastic way to connect young and old to Yosemite. Fun picnics enjoyed here by entire families will create stewardship in the next generation.”*



Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 18: Yosemite Valley: Paddling and Floating

Management Option 18B: Continue paddling and floating in a limited section of the river. Require permits for all paddling vessels (both private and commercial). Designate put-in and take-out points (and stopping points along the way).

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- *“No permits needed.”*

Management Option 18C: Same as Management Option 18B, but would allow paddling and floating on a longer stretch of river to El Cap Crossover.

- *“Option C+ - Stretch to Pohono.”*

Other comments:

- *“Add option of private floating without permit and no commercial or limited commercial use.”*
- *“More paddling availability on river (more river). Less pool toys.”*
- *“If large woody debris is an issue then maybe consider commercial and private with permit only?”*
- *“Everything for Option B except permits.”*
- *“Allow commercially guided trips and kayak instruction.”*
- *“Develop alternative based on impact assessment of commercial rafting which removes the raft concession.”*

Management Consideration 19: Valley: Camping Demand

Other Comments:

- *“Improvements to existing camp 4: showers, cooking pavilion, climbing museum.”*
- *“Camp 4 and the Lodge already suffer from sever congestion. Adding campgrounds here would create further issues.”*
- *“Replace, at a minimum, any campsites removed under this plan.”*



- *“Camping demand will always exceed supply. Adding more camping is not the solution.”*
- *“You can’t address camping demand without pairing with a transportation plan.”*
- *“Less RV/generator camping. More car/walk in camping spots.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 20: Yosemite Lodge: Intersection Congestion

Other Comments:

- *“Minimize traffic with one way permits to accommodations. Outlaw casual driving.”*

SEGMENT 2.4: West Yosemite Valley

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 21: El Cap Meadow: Informal Social Trails

Management Option 21A: Use restoration fencing to limit foot traffic into the meadow and designate appropriate access routes using boardwalks and viewing platforms.

- *“What sensitive species need protecting here? I haven’t heard a true need here.”*
- *“Are managers concerned about specific species in this meadow or just bothered by the visual impact of the use trails?”*

Management Option 21C: Selectively remove vegetation that is blocking roadside views of El Capitan.

- *“There are excellent views of El Cap from Southside Drive. Why remove vegetation along Northside Drive?”*

Management Option 21D: Limit most roadside parking to search-and-rescue and other emergency use. Consolidate visitor roadside parking along the west end of the meadow; keep parking open for SAR and other admin traffic.

- *“I don’t agree with parking idea (reserve for SAR) – seems to limit visitor access to a unique experience. Use boardwalks and viewing platforms.”*



Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 22: West of Pohono Bridge: River Access

Management Option 22A: Pave limited parking area(s) and designate access to the river; use curbing to formalize parking. Use rocking or curbing to limit additional informal parking.

- *“Bring back river access at El Capitan Bend Beach and Devil’s Elbow Beach for swimming, picnicking, and water play but add trash cans and restrooms.”*

Management Option 22B: Close this access point; block parking access on both sides of the road (access to river is available at other sites in the corridor).

- *“This is prime visitor experience for picnicking and fishing and engaging with the river.”*

Management Consideration 23: Valley: Camping Demand

Management Option 23A: Potential areas for campground development: Taft Toe, east of El Capitan Picnic Area, west of El Capitan Meadow, Yellow Pines.

- *“Any new campgrounds should be evaluated for impact on natural resources.”*

Management Option 23B: In addition to Management Option 1, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite Valley.

- *“Please evaluate new campgrounds for their impact to natural resources like river and meadow wildlife.”*
- *“Emphasize out of valley camping.”*
- *“Out-of-valley camping is not a substitute for in-valley camping.”*

Management Option 23C: Do not add more camping to Yosemite Valley.

- *“GMP calls for about 750 sites and there are only about 450.”*
- *“Do not rebuild campgrounds in 150’ river zone.”*



General Comments:

- *“Have more walk-in camping. Coordinate walkers so that those taking YARTS get a camping spot.”*
- *“Prioritize camping areas in places with the least impact to the river, meadows, wildlife, rare plants, and biological resources.”*
- *“Encourage greater use of regional transit with walk-in campsites somehow coupled with use of transit.”*
- *“Return Yellow Pine back to walk-in camping – park at annex by Yosemite Lodge.”*
- *“Add an option to focus on adding camping outside the valley and outside sensitive riparian areas not inside valley.”*
- *“Expand shuttles to Valley View and possibly out of park.”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 25: Sentinel Beach Picnic Area: Visitor Experience

General Comments:

- *“Evaluate impact to sensitive riparian areas and relocate any uses causing undue impact.”*
- *“Remove the raft concession.”*
- *“Improve walking way-finding access from Swinging Bridge parking to spread out use.”*
- *“Bus shuttle is intrusive here and makes picnicking very dusty.”*



SEGMENT 4: El Portal

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 26: Greenmeyer Sand Pit: Flood and Riparian Plan Impacts from Fill Material

Management Option 26C: Using best management practices, continue administrative functions including staging and biomass management.

- *“Use as an informal camping/parking/crashing site for late night arrivals (with no daytime camping).”*

Land Uses and Associated Development

Management Consideration 28: Maintenance Administrative Complex: Roadside Parking

Management Option 28A: Construct mitigation measures (Best Management Practices) and formalize existing parking area to maximize visitor and employee parking within the existing footprint.

- *“Move all day use parking out of the valley to El Portal/Foresta.”*
- *“What is the parking used for?”*
- *“Is water quality contamination a problem?”*

SEGMENT 5, 6, 7 and 8: South Fork Merced River Wawona

Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Management Consideration 29: Wawona Campground: Campground Activity Near River

Management Option 29A: Relocate or close campsites that are too close to the river.

- *“OK if no reduction in number of sites.”*



Visitor Use Management Program

Management Consideration 31: South Fork: Paddling and Floating

Management Option 31A: Continue to allow paddling and floating in this segment without any management of large woody debris. No limits on the number of floaters or boats would be in place. No designated put-in or take-out.

- “Open ENTIRE Merced to boaters.”

Site Plan Comments

Abbeville Trailer Court Site Plan

- “*El Portal Option C+ - restore floodplain, no parking, remove trailers.*”

El Portal Concepts

- “*Green dot for Option B.*”

Comments on Other Boards

Challenges – Visitor Use Management Program

- “*No day use parking reservations.*”
- “*How will someone who is camping at Camp 4 get into the valley if you require day use permits?*”
- “*No RVs in Valley.*”
- “*Have parking available outside park with frequent shuttles into the park.*”



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 1: Merced River Above Nevada Fall

Management Consideration 1
Segment 1 Wilderness Trails
Goal: Visitor Use Management Program

Option A
Reallocate wilderness permits to increase use on this trail.

Option B
Incorporate High Sierra Camp use into trailhead quotas.

Comments

Management Consideration 3
Merced Lake Backpackers Campground
Goal: Land Use and Associated Development

Option A
Reduce use by lowering quotas for trailheads that lead to the Merced Lake area.

Option B
Allow only limited dispersed camping at Merced Lake.

Option C
Retain backpacker's camp to that visitor use is concentrated. This strategy helps to protect resources and address human waste concerns.

Comments

Management Consideration 5
Little Yosemite Valley Backpackers
Goal: Land Use and Associated Development

Option A
Reduce trailhead quota 25%; retain camping sites.

Option B
Retain backpacker's camp to that visitor use is concentrated. This strategy helps to protect resources and address human waste concerns.

Option C
Convert to dispersed camping and remove camping permits, which will necessitate a ~75% reduction in trailhead quotas and associated zone capacity.

Comments

Management Consideration 2
Recreational User Conflicts
Goal: Visitor Use Management Program

Option A
Close or reduce Merced Lake High Sierra Camp capacity to 42 beds (as above) or less to limit downstream stock use.

Option B
Use trailhead quotas of 100 to 150 to reduce upstream use.

Option C
Reduce the extent of trailhead use for stock on this area which would in turn reduce the number of days needed to harvest them.

Comments

Management Consideration 4
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp
Goal: Land Use and Associated Development

Option A
Close Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and restore to natural conditions.

Option B
Reduce capacity from 42 beds to 42 beds (equal to that of the next largest camp (Dingyflat)).

Option C
Reduce amenities such as shower facilities to accommodate only staff members, eliminate food service for hike ins, restrict food service to cook meals only.

Option D
Convert HSC to hiker's camp in which all structures are temporary & removed in fall.

Comments

Option E
Retain camp as is. Monitor and evaluate operation toward minimizing impact and restore any visitor exposure that may be needed. Continue BA Management that includes being used for other management, designated path, etc.

Comments

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.1: East Yosemite Valley

Management Consideration 6
Curtis Bridge to El Cap Bridge Large Woody Debris Management
Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Option A
Stop removing large woody debris. Allow floating seasonally. Educate visitors about risks of foot use and allow for seasonal closures to protect visitor safety.

Option B
Continue the removal of large woody debris for safety reasons and to protect infrastructure. Where possible, for safety reasons log or stream to traps, using proper bridges and remove material at low water flows.

Option C
Actively restore LWD or cut as generated by area where there is a lack of channel complexity, such as upstream of Hottelman Bridge.

Comments

Management Consideration 8
Cultural OUV Visitor Use and Infrastructure
Goal: Opportunity for Direct Connection to River Values

Option A
Retain visitor use areas where practicable to remove potential threats and disturbances to traditional cultural practices and values.

Option B
Partner with traditional practitioners to remove areas important for traditional and spiritual use.

Option C
Conduct on-going consultation and data collection to ensure the protection of ethnographic resources. Partner with traditional practitioners to conduct regular condition assessment monitoring.

Comments

Management Consideration 10
Sugar Pine Bridge/Alhambra Bridge/Road Barms Free Flowing Condition
Goal: Land Use and Associated Development

Option A
Remove Sugar Pine Bridge, road barms, and Alhambra Bridge and re-route road/rail to the north bank of the river.

Option B
Remove Sugar Pine Bridge and road barms, but leave Alhambra Bridge. The Alhambra Bridge would provide access to Upper and Lower Pine Campgrounds.

Option C
Replace both existing bridges with foot bridges designed to protect and enhance the free flowing condition of the river.

Comments

Management Consideration 7
Riparian Zone Capacity
Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values

Option A
Relocate or remove camp sites that are within the existing high water mark and the riparian zone. Design river access points to visitor location and remove riparian areas to natural conditions.

Option B
Designate parking and tent pads at existing infrastructure and locate infrastructure as far from river as possible. Design river access points in riparian location.

Comments

Management Consideration 9
Valley Camping Demand
Goal: Visitor Use Management

Option A
Develop new campgrounds in areas such as north of Upper Pine Campground, between Southside St. and the Upper Pine Campground, or near the Sugar Pine Campground to accommodate dispersed backpacker camp.

Option B
In addition to Option A, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds to maximize valley and don't add anymore.

Option C
Retain the existing number of campsites to maximize valley and don't add anymore.

Comments



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.2: Yosemite Village Area

<p>Management Consideration 11 Housekeeping Camp, Riparian and Flood Plain Impacts</p> <p>Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p>Option A Minimize the number up to 93 lodging units and associated campsite, to meet visitor demand. Consider alternative locations for these lodging units to address these resource values within Yosemite Valley.</p>	<p>Option B Remove all lodging units adjacent to the river as outlined in the 1980 General Management Plan.</p>	<p>Option C Remove all lodging units, with structure and range and restore the floodplain and riparian wetlands to natural conditions.</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Management Consideration 12 Upper and Lower Rivers Groundwater Areas</p> <p>Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p>Option A Provide visitor use opportunities and parking, including parking and picnic areas for the northern portion of the former campground, away from the riparian and floodplain ecosystems.</p>	<p>Option B Restore visitor use opportunities and parking, including picnic areas, throughout the former Upper and Lower Rivers Campgrounds, including riparian and floodplain ecosystems.</p>	<p>Option C Fully restore the riparian and floodplain ecosystems and manage future impacts.</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Management Consideration 13 Visitor Use Impacts</p> <p>Goal: Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values</p>	<p>Option A Restrict visitor use to the riparian and floodplain areas, including the riparian and floodplain areas, to protect the riparian and floodplain ecosystems.</p>	<p>Option B Stabilize existing visitor use areas and provide additional riparian and floodplain areas for visitor use. Conduct regular monitoring.</p>	<p>Option C Conduct riparian and floodplain area restoration as a multi-phased project to provide additional riparian and floodplain areas for visitor use. Conduct regular monitoring.</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Management Consideration 14 Valley Camping Demand</p> <p>Goal: Visitor Use Management</p>	<p>Option A Reestablish camping in former River Campgrounds.</p>	<p>Option B In addition to Option 1, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite Valley.</p>	<p>Option C Do not add more camping to Yosemite Valley.</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p>Management Consideration 15 Camp 6, Intersection</p> <p>Goal: Land Use and Associated Development</p>	<p>Option A Design a roundabout and pedestrian crossing to improve intersection performance. Roundabout design would likely require that the Connector be re-routed.</p>	<p>Option B Relocate parking area to provide better access and improve operational efficiency.</p>	<p>Option C Relocate parking area to provide better access to avoid intersection issues. Relocate information kiosk within the lot. Utilize electronic pedestrian and vehicle crossing signals.</p>	<p>Option D Install temporary, seasonal electronic pedestrian crossing signals.</p>	<p>Option E Relocate information kiosk to a bus stop area. Relocate pedestrian crossing signals along utility corridor. Relocate information kiosk and pedestrian crossing signals to provide better access.</p>	<p>Comments</p>			

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.3: Yosemite Lodge Area

<p>Management Consideration 16 Locally Monitor Impacts by Informal Trail</p> <p>Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p>Option A Remove local trails and restore meadows. Install boardwalks to provide future access. Remove trail path on north side of Campground.</p>	<p>Option B Remove local trails and restore meadows. Install boardwalks and place signs to educate visitors about human impacts to meadow.</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Management Consideration 17 Swinging Bridge, Riparian Impacts</p> <p>Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values</p>	<p>Option A Re-design picnic area in its current location. Identify additional parking on the south side of South Lake Street. Designate the area as a formal river access point.</p>	<p>Option B Retain existing picnic area and parking lot. Relocate bathrooms to South Lake Street area, expand parking at South Lake and to Health Station. Designate river access via bike and foot path.</p>	<p>Option C Remove existing picnic area and parking lot. Relocate bathrooms to South Lake Street area, expand parking at South Lake and to Health Station. Designate river access via bike and foot path.</p>	<p>Comments</p>	
<p>Management Consideration 18 Yosemite Valley, Paddling and Floating</p> <p>Goal: Visitor Use Management</p>	<p>Option A Public comment will permit paddling and floating in the Valley. Paddling and floating will be allowed in a limited section of the river. Require permits for all paddling vessels, both private and commercial. Designate put-in and take-out points (land stopping points) along the river.</p>	<p>Option B Continue paddling and floating in a limited section of the river. Require permits for all paddling vessels, both private and commercial. Designate put-in and take-out points (land stopping points) along the river.</p>	<p>Option C Same as Option B, but would allow paddling and floating on a longer stretch of river to El Cap Crossing.</p>	<p>Option D Private floating by permit from Clark's bridge to Pohono Bridge. Allow use throughout the year as long as water conditions are suitable. No commercial floating would be allowed. Designate put-in and take-out locations.</p>	<p>Option E Similar to Option B, but with limited commercial floating opportunities with designated put-in and take-out. Private floating of vessels would be prohibited, though swimming and water play would continue.</p>	<p>Comments</p>			
<p>Management Consideration 19 Valley Camping Demand</p> <p>Goal: Visitor Use Management</p>	<p>Option A Divide new campgrounds in three or more of the following areas: (1) east of Camp 6, (2) south of Yosemite Creek and between Camp 4 (Dike of Lodge), (3) in the vicinity of Yosemite Lodge (Pine and Oak).</p>	<p>Option B In addition to Option 1, identify new campground locations or expand existing campgrounds inside the park but outside of Yosemite Valley.</p>	<p>Option C Do not add more camping to Yosemite Valley.</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Management Consideration 20 Yosemite Lodge, Inter-Clash Congestion</p> <p>Goal: Land Use and Associated Development</p>	<p>Option A Relocate lodge entrance and replace with pedestrian accessible and underground pedestrian access to lower Yosemite Falls (see DIC drawing).</p>	<p>Option B Implement an electronically controlled intersection for both vehicles and pedestrians.</p>	<p>Option C Construct a pedestrian overpass as primary road crossing. Provide for accessibility improvements by maintaining a second-way crossing at surface level.</p>	<p>Comments</p>



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 2.4: West Yosemite Valley

Management Consideration 21 El Cap Meadow Informal Social Trails Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	Option A Use restoration fencing to limit trail traffic, close the meadow and designate appropriate areas nearby using boardwalks and viewing platforms.	Option B Following to limit trail traffic, close the meadow and designate appropriate areas nearby using boardwalks and viewing platforms.	Option C Selectively remove vegetation that is blocking roadside views of El Capitan.	Option D Limit most roadside parking to search and rescue and other emergency use. Consider use for roadside parking along the east end of the meadow, keep parking open for SAR and other admin traffic.	Comments
Management Consideration 22 West of Pohono Bridge, River Access Goal: Maintenance	Option A Place limited parking areas and designate access to the river, use lighting to formalize parking, use locking or curbing to limit additional informal parking.	Option B Close this access point, block parking access on both sides of the road access to river to avoid alleys at other sites in the corridor.	Option C Designate river access and use boardwalks to limit parking in un-designated parking areas.	Comments	Management Consideration 23 Valley Camping Demand Goal: Visitor Use Management
Management Consideration 24 Cathedral Beach Picnic Area Goal: Land Uses and Development	Option A Re-design picnic area to better manage the level of visitor use and designate the area as a formal river access point, fence off sensitive areas, re-direct use to more resilient areas and establish riparian vegetation.	Option B Retain existing picnic area, designate the area as a formal river access point, fence off sensitive areas, re-direct use to more resilient areas and establish riparian vegetation.	Comments	Management Consideration 25 Sentinel Beach Picnic Area Goal: Land Uses and Development	Option A Re-design picnic area in its current location to accommodate parking and rafting, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.
				Option B Remove raft take out access to accommodate exposure of picnic area, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Option C Relocate picnic area to accommodate exposure of picnic area, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.
				Option D Re-design picnic area to expand parking and rafting, formalize vehicle access and parking, designate river access.	Comments



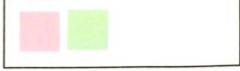





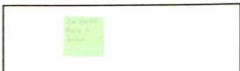


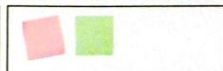
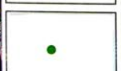
MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS Segment 4: El Portal

Management Consideration 26 Greenlief Sandflat: Flood and Riparian Plant Impacts from Fill Material Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values	Option A Restore to natural conditions, remove fill material and reconstruct.	Option B Cultivate fill material to allow flooding cycles and other natural processes to flush the site gradually and reclaim the flood plain.	Option C Using best management practices, continue administrative functions including staging and business management.	Comments	Management Consideration 27 Infrastructure: Valley Oaks Impacts Goal: Ecological and Natural Resource Values
					Option A Remove all facilities and restore the understorey.
					Option B Preserve sites as needed. Reconstruct understorey infrastructure to natural conditions.
					Option C Retain facilities but create another seating requirement area in a different location.
Management Consideration 28 Maintenance Administrative Complex Roadside Parking Goal: Land Use and Associated Development	Option A Construct mitigation measures (Best Management Practices) and formalize existing parking area to maximize visitor and employee parking within the existing footprints.	Option B Relocate parking from the river's edge. Build new parking east of Foresta Road at the Administrative Facility. Restore sites between Foresta Road and the river.	Comments		



MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Segment 5-8: South Fork Merced River

<p>Management Consideration 29 Warning Campground campground activity near river</p> <p>Goal Ecological and Aesthetic Values</p>	<p>Option A Relocate or close camp sites that are too close to the river.</p> 	<p>Option B Designate access points to the river to reduce resource impacts.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 	<p>Management Consideration 30 Camp A. E. Wood</p> <p>Goal Opportunities for Direct Connection to River Values</p>	<p>Option A Stabilize archeological remains of Camp and provide interpretive display highlighting the importance of Camp A. E. Wood as an example of African-American soldiers in park history as well as archeological interpretive.</p> 	<p>Option B Conduct field recovery of archeological remains of Camp. Provide interpretive display highlighting the importance of Camp A. E. Wood as an example of African-American soldiers in park history.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 
<p>Management Consideration 31 Visitor Use Management Program</p> <p>Goal Visitor Use Management Program</p>	<p>Option A Continue to allow paddling and floating in this segment without any management of large woody debris. No limits on the number of floats or boats would be in place. No debris would be in place. No debris would be in place.</p> 	<p>Option B Continue to allow paddling and floating in this segment with the goal of providing for the best possible experience for users. No limits on the number of floats or boats would be in place. No debris would be in place. No debris would be in place.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 	<p>Management Consideration 32 Picnic area near Wawona Store</p> <p>Goal Land Uses and Associated Development</p>	<p>Option A Relocate picnic area to its current location, designate river access.</p> 	<p>Option B Relocate picnic area to a different location, designate river access in this area.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 
<p>Management Consideration 33 Impoundment Effects on Free-Flowing Condition</p> <p>Goal Land Uses and Associated Development</p>	<p>Option A Investigate reasonable options, such as water system development, to reduce impoundment effects on free-flowing condition. Retain the impoundment until other options are developed.</p> 	<p>Comments</p> 