



Appendix A: Amendments to the General Management Plan

Appendix A

Specific Amendments to the 1980 General Management Plan Resulting from the *Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias EIS*

The 1980 *General Management Plan* for Yosemite National Park (GMP), as amended by the 1992 *Concession Services Plan*, is the overall management document for Yosemite National Park. The GMP directs the National Park Service (NPS) to “Retain [the Mariposa Grove] as the primary location within the park for visitor enjoyment and interpretation of the giant sequoia; Provide only visitor facilities consistent with preservation of the unique ecosystem; remove all other facilities not necessary for visitor enjoyment of the resource.” While these management goals will be achieved with this project, minor changes to the Developed Area Plan from the GMP and other specific actions proposed in the *GMP* would occur.

Actions that are consistent with the GMP include: accommodate the physically disabled, repair and reconstruct trails, remove the 115-car parking lot, convert the existing bus parking area to shuttle turn-around and off-season parking for the Grove, remove the gift shop, and upgrade physical facilities (toilets). Actions that amend the GMP in the *Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias/Final Environmental Impact Statement (Mariposa Grove FEIS)* are as follows:

- The GMP directs the NPS to provide adequate wastewater treatment and dispose waste outside the Mariposa Grove. Under the *Mariposa Grove FEIS*, the NPS would continue to provide vault toilets in the lower Grove area and truck waste outside the Grove, or replace the existing vault toilets with flush toilets. Waste from flush toilets would be treated in the Mariposa Grove through a leach field system within the Grove, if feasible. Removing waste entirely from the Grove, as directed in the GMP, would require adding a sewage line from the Grove to the South Entrance, and likely construction of a sewage treatment facility at the South Entrance, at a high cost (see Chapter 1, Issues Considered but Dismissed). Although the funds required for a sewer line are not available at this time, it is still considered a possibility along with a septic system and the use of vault toilets in some locations where physical constraints to a septic system exist.
- The GMP directs the NPS to retain and rehabilitate the museum and comfort station. The museum building would remain, and its use as a primary interpretive facility would be moved to the new hub location under each action alternative. The museum building may be repurposed as a group hiker’s shelter, meeting room, or other compatible use.
- The GMP directs the NPS to convert the Wawona Point Road to a trail. Under the Mariposa Grove FEIS, the road would be converted into a hardened trail that would allow for occasional maintenance traffic, as it is not feasible to move the communication network at Wawona Point at this time. The NPS would remove the Wawona Point Road if technology improves and the equipment can be removed (see Chapter 2, Alternatives Considered but Dismissed).
- The GMP directs the NPS to extend the tram system from the South Entrance through Mariposa Grove. The existing tram service through the Grove would be discontinued under Alternatives 2 and 3 to protect and enhance the ecological health of the giant sequoias and to improve the visitor experience of those walking in the Grove.

Therefore, the *General Management Plan: Visitor Use/Park Operations/Development Plan* would be amended as follows if the preferred alternative (Alternative 2) is selected:

1980 GMP Section and Page #	1980 GMP Text	2013 Amended GMP Text	2013 Restoration of Mariposa Grove FEIS Reference
Developed Area Plans-South Entrance Page 59	Goals Visitor Use Provide park orientation and information/reservation system for overnight accommodations and campgrounds Provide staging facilities for Mariposa Grove Provide adequate road to Mariposa Grove for bus access Actions Visitor Use Construct an information/reservation kiosk and 50-car parking area at south entrance Construct a parking area to accommodate 200 autos, 5 buses, tram terminal, and comfort station Provide bus service to Mariposa Grove	Goals Visitor Use Provide park orientation and information/reservation system for overnight accommodations and campgrounds Provide staging facilities for Mariposa Grove Provide adequate road to Mariposa Grove for bus <u>shuttle</u> access Actions Visitor Use Construct an information/reservation kiosk and 50-car parking area at south entrance Construct a parking area to accommodate 200 295 vehicles, 5-3 commercial buses, tram shuttle boarding and tour bus transfer area, terminal, and comfort station Provide bus <u>shuttle</u> service to Mariposa Grove	Chapter 2, Alternatives Alternative 2: South Entrance Hub (Preferred Alternative) Section
Developed Area Plans-Mariposa Grove Page 59	The awesome beauty and quiet of the grove are being protected by only allowing visitors to walk through the grove or ride a tram system with an interpreter.	The awesome beauty and quiet of the Grove are being protected by only allowing visitors to walk through the Grove, <u>with special provisions made for visitors with physical disabilities</u> or ride a tram system with an interpreter.	Chapter 2, Alternatives Alternative 2: South Entrance Hub (Preferred Alternative) Section
Developed Area Plans-Mariposa Grove Page 60	Actions Visitor Use Extend the tram system from South Entrance through Mariposa Grove; prohibit commercial tour buses; accommodate the physically disabled	Actions Visitor Use Extend the tram system <u>Provide shuttle service from South Entrance to the lower through Mariposa</u> Grove; restrict commercial tour bus access to the lower Grove area; accommodate the physically disabled Convert Wawona Point Road to a trail Repair and reconstruct trails through tree grove Remove 115 car parking area Convert existing bus parking area to off-season parking (25-50 vehicles) Retain and rehabilitate museum building and comfort station Remove gift shop	Chapter 2, Alternatives Alternative 2: South Entrance Hub (Preferred Alternative) Section
Developed Area Plans-Mariposa Grove Page 61	South Entrance/Mariposa Grove Development Concept Map	Remove and replace with Figure 2-5 – Alternative 2: South Entrance Hub (Preferred Alternative)	Chapter 2, Alternatives Alternative 2: South Entrance Hub (Preferred Alternative) Section