

TUOLUMNE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN/TUOLUMNE MEADOWS PLAN EIS



Public Scoping Report

December 2006

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Introduction

During the summer of 2006, the National Park Service conducted public scoping as part of the early development of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan. The primary purpose of public scoping in a planning effort is to compile ideas, interests, and concerns from members of the public to help shape responsible plans for Yosemite National Park. The public scoping period began a multi-year process of collaboration with elected officials, partners in other agencies, park visitors and neighbors, gateway communities, culturally associated tribal groups, scientists and scholars, national and local advocacy groups, and private citizens to develop plans for the Tuolumne River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

The purpose of this planning effort is twofold: (1) to provide long-term, comprehensive guidance for the protection of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River, and (2) to determine more specifically what programs and services will meet river protection goals in Tuolumne Meadows. This Public Scoping Report is a summary of the voices heard and ideas generated during the public scoping period from June to September 2006. It will serve as an essential tool for park managers in shaping management directives for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

Public Scoping Process Summary

The National Park Service initiated public scoping for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan (TRP) and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan (TMP) on June 27, 2006. A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for these two plans was published on July 10, 2006 in the Federal Register. The public scoping period lasted 73 days, closing on September 7, 2006. During public scoping, the National Park Service solicits comments from members of the public in order to understand the spectrum concerns, interests, and issues that need to be addressed in the planning process.

Members of the public were encouraged to submit comments in a variety of ways. Individuals could submit comments at one of thirteen public scoping meetings held in communities adjacent to the park as well as in Tuolumne Meadows. Meetings took place in Yosemite Valley, Oakhurst, Mariposa, Groveland, Sonora, Modesto, San Francisco, and Lee Vining. These events were advertised in local newspapers, on the park's website, and through the park's mailed and electronic Planning Update newsletter. Fliers were also posted in locations around Tuolumne Meadows, informing visitors of Tuolumne planning events.

Public meetings consisted of an introductory presentation on the planning process, followed by focused discussions with the NPS planning team. During these conversations, ideas and concerns were captured on flip-charts that were then posted around the room for others to read. These "flip chart notes" have been incorporated as comments into this Scoping Report. The meetings also served as a means to help individuals learn more about the Tuolumne planning process. Informational displays and reference materials were made available, along with take-home brochures, "scribble maps" (where comments could be written on the map and submitted), and a Participant Planning Guide for Tuolumne. (All of these materials can be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/archive/yose/planning/trp/)

Individuals were also invited to on-site visits at Tuolumne Meadows, along with ranger walks that pertained to the Tuolumne planning effort. Comment boxes with forms and informational brochures were available at the Tuolumne Meadows Store, the Tuolumne Visitor Center, and at Parsons Lodge. In addition, informational brochures and the Participant Planning Guide were made available on the park's website (www.nps.gov/archive/yose/planning/trp/). Ultimately, comments were accepted via e-mail, fax, letter, on comment forms and "scribble maps," and through

comments captured on flip charts at public meetings. While not as widely used, the NPS also accepted scoping comments through a new system known as the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose>).

In addition to the series of public meetings, the NPS Tuolumne Meadows staff from the Division of Interpretation made the topic of planning for Tuolumne's future a central feature throughout the offering of summer ranger programs. One of the primary goals of the NPS Tuolumne Meadows interpretive staff was to weave the planning process and scoping period into every program when appropriate. The interpretive staff was committed to making sure the public and Tuolumne staff were aware of the scoping period and that they had every opportunity to participate and write comments. Interpreters roved sections of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground before every campfire program and often brought up the topic of the scoping process. The topic was also included in programs at the Parsons Memorial Lodge, the Tuolumne Visitor Center, and on High Sierra Loop Trips. In summary, interpretive rangers encouraged visitors to engage in the Tuolumne planning effort at the following opportunities:

- A total of 74 Dana Circle campfire programs, attended by 6,420 people
- All-Day Hikes (63 attendees)
- Ranger Walks, including such topics as History (76 attendees), River (147 attendees), Flowers (178 attendees), and Birds (43 attendees)

The 'CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLIC SCOPING' below details some of the primary public scoping milestones:

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLIC SCOPING

June 27, 2006	PUBLIC SCOPING OPENS with press release
June 28, 2006	OPEN HOUSE in Yosemite Valley
June 27, 2006	GATEWAY PARTNERS Meeting in Yosemite Valley
July 5, 2006	ALL TRIBES Meeting in Yosemite Valley
July 10, 2006	PUBLIC SCOPING announced in Federal Register NOI
July 12, 2006	MODESTO Public Meeting
July 13, 2006	SAN FRANCISCO Public Meeting
July 18, 2006	TUOLUMNE MEADOWS Public Meeting
July 19, 2006	LEE VINING Public Meeting
July 26, 2006	OPEN HOUSE in Yosemite Valley
July 27, 2006	GATEWAY PARTNERS Meeting in Yosemite Valley (Dedicated session regarding Tuolumne Planning)

August 7, 2006	MARIPOSA Public Meeting
August 12, 2006	TUOLUMNE Public Meeting
August 14, 2006	OAKHURST Public Meeting
August 15, 2006	SONORA Public Meeting
August 17, 2006	GROVELAND Public Meeting
August 28, 2006	TUOLUMNE Public Meeting
August 29, 2006	TUOLUMNE MEADOWS Public Site Visit
August 30, 2006	OPEN HOUSE in Yosemite Valley
September 7, 2006	PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD CLOSES

Throughout the scoping period, the National Park Service received 457 public scoping responses (including letters, faxes, emails, comment forms, and public meeting flip-chart notes). Each response from the public was carefully reviewed and individual ideas were identified and assigned a code according to the subject matter. These discrete individual ideas are known as *public comments*. A total of 4,023 public comments were generated from the letters, faxes, email, and meeting notes received during the scoping process.

Public comments were then grouped into what are called *concern statements*. These public concerns identify common themes expressed by individuals or groups requesting particular lines of action by the National Park Service. A total of 945 public concern statements were generated from the over 4,000 total public comments.

This Public Scoping Report presents the public concern statements with one or more representative quotes taken from public comments that accompany and support each public concern, conveying the author's thoughts on how, when, where, or why the concern should be addressed. For the purposes of this report, the supporting quotes are just a sample from all comments received on a particular theme of concern. A given public concern can reflect one or many supporting comments.

In addition to presenting the concerns identified in public scoping for the TRP/TMP, this report provides an explanation of the comment analysis process, which includes the analysis of individual comments and the development of concern statements. This report also includes a description of the next step in the comment analysis process, called the *concern screening process*, which will integrate public comments into the planning framework. The concern screening process will begin after the publication of this Public Scoping Report.

Concern Analysis and Screening Process

Comment Analysis Process

The letters, emails, and faxes represented in this Public Scoping Report were analyzed using a process developed by the United States Forest Service, Washington Office Ecosystem Management Staff, Content Analysis Team. For the

last six years, this system has been used to analyze comments for nearly all planning efforts in Yosemite National Park.

The comment analysis is comprised of three main components: a coding structure, a comment database, and the narrative summary contained in this report. Initially, a coding structure is developed to sort comments into logical groups by topics. Code categories are derived from an analysis of the range of topics covered in relevant present and past planning documents, National Park Service legal guidance, and the letters themselves. The purpose of these codes is to allow for quick access to comments on specific topics. The coding structure used was inclusive rather than restrictive—an attempt was made to capture all comments, including those that may not have pertained directly to the Tuolumne planning process.

The second phase of the analysis process involves the assignment of codes to comments made by the public in their letters, faxes, and emails. For each comment in a piece of correspondence, codes are assigned by one reader, validated by a second reader, and then entered into a database as verbatim quotes from members of the public. The database, in turn, is used to help construct this Public Scoping Report.

The third phase includes the identification of public concern statements and the preparation of this narrative. Public concerns are identified throughout the coding process and are derived from and supported by quotes from original letters. These public concern statements present common themes identified in comments. Each statement is worded to give decision-makers a clear sense of what action is being requested. Public concern statements are intended to help guide the reader to comments on the specific topics of interest. They do not replace the actual comments received from individuals. Rather, concern statements should be considered as one means of accessing information contained in original letters and the coded comment database.

All comments are captured in public concern statements, whether they were presented by hundreds of people or a single individual. Unlike voting, the emphasis of a comment analysis process is on the content of the comment rather than the number of people who support it. Comment analysis is not a vote-counting process and no effort has been made to tabulate the number of people for or against a certain aspect of a specific planning topic. Additionally, all comments are treated equally and are not weighted by number, organizational affiliation, or other status of respondents.

To view the original letters, emails, and faxes in their entirety, visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/archive/yose/planning/trp/scoping.htm>.

Next Steps - Screening Public Scoping Concerns

Following the distribution of this Public Scoping Report, the NPS staff will begin screening public concern statements. The purpose of the screening process is to identify whether a concern is in or out of a project's proposed scope of work and the level of action required by the planning team. All concern statements and supporting quotes presented in this document will be analyzed by park staff and assigned screening codes according to the criteria described below. Screening codes indicate how concerns will be addressed by the proposed project. When screening a public scoping concern, each supporting quote must be examined for the presence of a rationale (the "why") supporting the requested action. All identified public concerns, whether supported by the comments of one person or many, are considered. The NPS will begin the screening process after the publication of this Public Scoping Report. A Public Screening Report will be developed separately.

Screen #1 identifies public concerns that are out of the scope of the subject planning process, or are non-substantive, and therefore do not warrant further consideration. These public concerns do not require management consideration. Any concern for which an affirmative answer can be given to one of the following questions falls in this category:

- 1.1 Is the concern outside the scope of the proposed action? (i.e., out-of-scope)
- 1.2 Does law or policy already decide the concern? (i.e., out-of-scope)
- 1.3 Is this the wrong planning level for a decision on this concern? (i.e., out-of-scope)
- 1.4 Would acting on the concern place untenable restrictions on management, conflict with approved plans, or entail significant and reasonably foreseeable negative consequences? (i.e., effectively out-of-scope)
- 1.5 Is the concern a simple editorial correction? (i.e., no response needed)
- 1.6 Is the concern an unsupported personal opinion (i.e., a question, problem, suggestion, or interest, with no supporting “why”); or a simple statement of fact with no request for action, stated or implied? (A non-substantive concern)

Concerns that do not reasonably match the above criteria are considered within the scope of the subject plan, could be substantive, and are passed on to screen #2.

Screen #2 defines concerns and comments that fall within the reasonable scope of the project and will be addressed in its compliance document (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement).

Using this Report

This report presents public concerns arranged by topic, along with a representative sample of supporting quotes. The following list of acronyms has been developed to maintain brevity and should assist the reader in reviewing the report.

List of Acronyms

EIS – Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act

NPS –National Park Service

ORV – Outstandingly Remarkable Value

TRP/TMP – Tuolumne River Plan/Tuolumne Meadows Plan

VERP – Visitor Experience and Resource Protection

YVP – Yosemite Valley Plan

Planning Process and Policy

Park Management, Purpose and Significance

The National Park Service is successfully managing Yosemite National Park.

“In general you are doing a lot of great things - great park!”
(Individual, Marshfield, VT, Comment #101-3)

The National Park Service should be a model steward in managing and protecting our earth's treasures.

“The concept of a national park is one of this country's most inspired and magnificent contributions to the world. The concept continues to evolve as parks struggle with determining how we can live with the land in a balanced way. Now able to view our home, the Earth, spinning through the darkness of space, we can envision an even broader park concept—an “earth world park.” Perhaps I am idealistic, but it seems to me parks are in the position to lead the way, to be the model by being bold and true to place.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-1)

The National Park Service should uphold their mission in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“The hope of “old timers” is that things “stay the same,” but nothing stays the same, especially in California where the demands of population are so excessive. Any changes should always be governed by the Act of 1916: the fundamental purpose of the national parks is ‘to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.’”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-1)

“The development of this plan comes at a time filled with opportunities. More and more people are taking a new view of our species' impact on this planet and most are becoming directly impacted by the oil situation, global warming, the spectre of limited vs. limitless resources. I am quite sure you are all aware of this so I most strongly urge you to take a radical approach to your work on this plan. Please consider, before anything else, revisiting the basic premises upon which the national park policy (ies) rests. Put aside the laundry lists of “to dos” to build or not build, accessibility etc. for a while, and ask the basic questions. Questions like: What is the gift of Yosemite - Tuolumne- our wild preserved places? What can we learn from it? What is the current relationship of humans to it? What kind of relationship do we want to foster for the future? What are the relationships to the various forces, challenges found here to those that await us when we return to our homes? For me, these questions point to the need of a radical paradigm shift...Yosemite (and all such places) should become a showcase, a spokesperson for our planet. And so more questions: How can the choices the park plan makes point to the choices we all must make in our lives?”
(Individual, Springfield, OR, Comment #360-3)

The National Park Service should identify current park management goals that could impact the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Are there park transportation, air quality and visual goals related to and that are or will impact the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.”
(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-32)

Legal Authority

The National Park Service should define their legal authority in Yosemite National Park.

“By definition, YNP is a police state because NPS are the only ones with firearms.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-13)

Applicable Laws, Executive Orders, Policies, and Guidelines

The National Park Service should defer to the National Park Service mission and policies during the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Have you read your mission statement lately? It is not construction of more buildings, or rock climbing leaving garbage and damage on the rocks, or destroying more of the land you have already ruined. The Park’s priorities have never been in the correct order. Tuolumne is an area that should not be disturbed.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #220-1)

“The National Park Service has just gone through a “soul searching” if you will, with the latest policy re-write. It’s clear that the American public would like to see the Park service decrease commercial exploitation of the National Parks. This decrease in commercial use must also include the Tuolumne Meadows area and the Tuolumne River corridor.”

(Environmental Organization, Flagstaff, AZ, Comment #221-1)

“Your legacy in the National Park Service and Wilderness Preservation System will be determined by your decision in situations like this one. You can capitulate to commercial interests and continue to allow the degradation of these public lands; or you can rise to the occasion by protecting these irreplaceable treasures for the future.”

(Environmental Organization, Stonefort, IL, Comment #263-4)

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The TRP/TMP EIS should comply with Wild and Scenic Rivers Act legislation.

“I support whatever changes need to be made to comply with Wild and Scenic River legislation.”

(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-24)

“Respect the intent if not the essence of the 1984 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #309-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include a discussion on Wild and Scenic Rivers Act planning history, particularly any new case law findings.

“Planning history (Forest Service, BLM Tuolumne W&S plans) and history of NPS Tuolumne W&S River planning efforts would be interesting here. Discuss W&S river plan completion requirements in statute and recent case law.”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-3)

Wilderness Act

The Tuolumne Meadows Plan should defer to the 1964 Wilderness Act and Yosemite’s Wilderness Management Plan.

“And for all management issues relating to Wilderness, follow the Wilderness Act, NPS Mgmt. Policies, and the Yosemite Wilderness Plan with unwavering precision. You owe it to me and all the other people who cherish the Wilderness around Tuolumne Mdws. and the Tuolumne River.”

(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #260-5)

“The Tuolumne Meadows Plan should: 1, Respect the 1964 Wilderness Act and the Wilderness boundaries within Yosemite.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #309-1)

The TRP/TMP EIS should study and address the impact of commercial use of stock in Wilderness areas to fulfill mandates of the Wilderness Act of 1984.

“My understanding is that the removal of the High Sierra Camps was provided for in the California Wilderness Act of 1984, signed into law by President Reagan. Instead of the reduction in concentrated use mandated by this act, I understand that use by commercial packers has increased in this area.”

(Individual, Cotati, CA, Comment #250-4)

“The NPS was directed by Congress to study and address the commercial use of stock and its impacts under the California Wilderness Act of 1984. (We would like to acknowledge the exemplary advocacy of the High Sierra Hikers' Association, HSHA, in urging changes in the Yosemite high country for more than 20 years; we have incorporated their analysis). A legal CMP should address these stock impacts thoroughly. Congress directed the NPS to do it.”

(Environmental Organization, CA, Comment #300-14)

Americans with Disabilities Act

The National Park Service should ensure that all facilities within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“In terms of facilities, we strongly urge the National Park Service to make all facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #288-6)

Planning Process

The TRP/TMP EIS should present a range of alternatives with solid distinctions and different end results.

“Now hear this: Present REAL alternatives where solid distinctions can be drawn pointing to distinctly different end results.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-65)

National Park Service planners and decision-makers should familiarize themselves with the project area through firsthand, direct experience to most effectively manage and protect Tuolumne.

“The hike from John Muir Trail parking lot, along the Dana Fork, across the bridge, and to the Lyell Fork crossing is one of the most unique short hikes in the Sierra. One experiences an encapsulation of the sub-alpine Sierra. I've been fortunate to walk this short section in solitude, no longer hearing the noise of the highway and encountering the scurrying crowds. I suggest that you and other park officials who are going to ultimately decide on the specifics of this plan, get of your offices and away from maps, budgets, and the written reports of biologists, and also experience this hike. Get to know the sunrise light on Unicorn and Cathedral peaks, the sound of the Lyell Fork as it quietly meanders through the meadow or rushes past the bridge, and the evening's alpenglow on Mts. Dana and Gibbs. Rediscover why Tuolumne Meadows is one of this planet's natural wonders and should forever remain as pristine as possible.”

(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-15)

The National Park Service should be transparent in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Understand pressure and appreciate the effort to be transparent.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-9)

The National Park Service should adopt an international perspective in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Try to learn from experiences in other parts of the world (Europe?) perhaps good and bad practices.”
(Individual, The Netherlands, Comment #77-7)

“See the international perspective: global warming. Kyoto protocol pressure groups in other parts of the world.”
(Individual, The Netherlands, Comment #77-9)

The National Park Service should use Zion National Park as a model for planning in Yosemite.

“In my opinion, Zion is the perfect model for Yosemite. Move the restaurants and accommodations to the west, create some parking. Leave the cars out of the valley, for the valley's sake. It saddened me to see that nothing had changed since my last visit, a year ago. Not only would the valley thrive, but the human experience would also be much enhanced. Where is the Comprehensive Management Plan for that?”
(Individual, Comment #2-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should adopt a watershed planning approach to the planning process.

“Take a watershed planning approach to process.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-52)

“Merced and Tuolumne same watershed – concerned with Sierra Nevada.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-78)

The National Park Service should determine the appropriate level of environmental analysis for the TRP/TMP EIS.

“Is an Environmental Analysis adequate for the kind of questions the management plan will address or is an EIS necessary?”
(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-116)

Legal issues with the TRP/TMP EIS planning process should be brought to the attention of the courts.

“If there is a legal issue with this process, it should be brought to the attention of the courts – perhaps a conservation organization would take it up in court.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-78)

Planning Timeframe

The National Park Service should identify a timeframe and evaluate measures for the implementation of TRP/TMP initiatives.

“PLANNING DOC/PROCESS: Should specify time frames for when things will be implemented. Should include the follow-up – a way to measure whether you’ve achieved what you set out to, and what impact those objectives have had on those they serve (visitors).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-64)

The National Park Service should move forward with the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Need to get moving with this “plan” because it expresses expediency.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-11)

The National Park Service should postpone the TRP/TMP planning process.

“We need to push back this TRP/TMP and give this place and plan more time and dedication.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-62)

“If we do push back the plan, we need to let everyone know ASAP (it seems as though many people are worried about this).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-63)

“NPS decisions in YNP are driven by Washington – why rush a decision that is precious to all of us?”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-14)

The National Park Service should explain why TRP/TMP planning process was not initiated sooner.

“Explain why this management plan has been so long in coming (20 years late). Does doing it now allow a broader look at the needs and possibilities for restoration, public use and protection along the river?”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-114)

The National Park Service should schedule public scoping for the TMP so that members of the public may first review and consider alternatives set forth in the TRP.

“I urge you to separate the Tuolumne River Plan from the Tuolumne Meadows Plan. Programmatically the River Plan will provide guidance with respect to zoning and the range of activities which may typically be found within the various zones in Tuolumne Meadows. The Tuolumne River Plan should be completed first so that the public will know what that 'guidance' is, in order to offer meaningful comments on the Tuolumne Meadow Plan. The Park should not force legally significant scoping and development of both plans simultaneously. There should be a Record of Decision for the Tuolumne River Plan before there is any scoping and plan development for Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, St. Helena, CA, Comment #257-3)

“The Tuolumne River CMP and the Tuolumne Meadows Plan need to be separated or de-coupled. To conduct scoping for both Plans at the same time puts the public at a distinct disadvantage. Until the Tuolumne River Plan is finalized and the public knows what guidance it will provide, it will not be possible to offer meaningful scoping comments on the Tuolumne Meadows Plan. As a programmatic document, the Tuolumne River Plan will provide guidance with respect to zoning and the range of activities that may typically be found within the various zones in Tuolumne Meadows. As an implementation plan, the Tuolumne Meadows Plan will tier from the Tuolumne River Plan. The latter is the zoning blueprint that will establish boundaries, classifications, user capacity and protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. There should be a Record of Decision for the Tuolumne River Plan before there is any scoping and plan development for Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Environmental Organization, Yosemite Valley, CA, Comment #296-2)

“If the NPS does not wish to enforce the court's decision on the Merced River Plan, the [Tuolumne] County believes that the NPS should review the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows with separate environmental documents. The County believes that operations at Tuolumne Meadows will have a direct impact on the Tuolumne River and should be reviewed separately. This would give the public additional opportunities to provide comments.”

(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, CA, Comment #256-2)

The National Park Service should re-initiate public scoping for the TMP after review of the Draft TRP is complete.

“Please do not close the TMP scoping period until the draft TRP alternatives has been developed and publicly reviewed. The TRP has precedence over implementation and will therefore shape views and comments related to the TMP. I agree that scoping input on the TMP will yield important considerations for the TRP. Parallel scoping periods for the two plans will strengthen the TRP. I do not accept, however, that scoping for the TMP can be

completed until at least the TRP alternatives have been drafted. Closing the TMP scoping period at the same time the scoping period for the TRP is closed in response to consideration for the public's time (as was the reason given during a public scoping session) is laudable, but ignores the reality of dependencies and impacts. The scoping period for the TMP needs to be continued until the depth and breadth of the TRP is understood."
(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #319-2)

"One of the planning team indicated to me privately at a scoping meeting that the TM Plan will be reopened for scoping after the CMP draft plan review time ends, if the CMP draft plan and public comments identify goals that are not addressed for action in the TM Plan portion of that draft. That extra opportunity for scoping may satisfy some critics of presenting the two plans in the same draft document. Please state that option, if I understand it correctly, in the draft and on your web site early in the process to show that more scoping and further review could be provided prior to the final reports."
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-56)

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS RELATED TO PUBLIC SCOPING, SEE 'PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT', PAGE 24.

Clarity of Planning Documents

The National Park Service should clearly state the vision and rationale for this planning effort.

"I also wondered if there is a problem we are trying to solve, or a vision we are trying to move towards, or if this is merely an opportunity for some folks to beat well worn drums and try to get rid of things they find abhorrent. Certainly there are things that happen along the river that don't match our personal vision of Tuolumne... BUT... not everyone is the same, and it seems inappropriate for us to impose our love of peace and quiet and walking on others."
(Individual, Comment #215-10)

"Don't do things for the sake of doing something."
(Individual, Pasadena, CA, Comment #361-3)

"I'm frustrated about why we need a management plan in the first place."
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-1)

The TRP/TMP EIS should be written clearly so that the general public will understand the document.

"Present plan and all elements in a simplified form, connected to the details, written in plain English and that doesn't take two weeks to read. Perhaps conduct focus groups on readability of draft plan."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-66)

"Please consider presenting your 'PLANS' in a 'lay' person's language and understanding - the general public does not have a College 'Science' degree."
(Individual, Lincoln, CA, Comment #207-3)

"Put everything on the table that is driving this plan. Stressful to have to read 400 pages to understand the plan and all guidance driving the effort."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should use photographs and quotations to illustrate issues within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

"Insert some photographs of the world-class landscapes in Tuolumne Meadows, Dana Meadows, Poopenaut and Pate valleys as well as the water features, falls and canyons of the Tuolumne River. Insert photographs of Tuolumne Meadows Campgrounds and the lodge and Glen Aulin high sierra camp to show how development fits

into the environment. Also show the waste treatment plant and disposal site, stables, Dana Fork diversion dam, gasoline station, highway bridge, some of the trail bridges and other features that may or may not need modification, improvement or removal.”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-6)

“Would the National Park Service encourage scoping respondents to suggest quotations related to the Tuolumne River and nearby features to aid the plan reader in visualizing the setting and outstandingly remarkable values of the river? Writings of John Muir and other visitors to northern Yosemite would be examples.”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-1)

The TRP should include a section on the legislative history of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“The two principal authors offer use of our libraries records, unorganized as they are, to the park staff to understand the many steps that have preceded this planning effort. The CMP should articulate a little of the history of the Acts and the struggle that led to passage of legislation for this important park resource. The two principal authors also are available to explain any part of the points stated herein that the staff might wish.”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-134)

Land Use and Acquisition

The National Park Service should increase the boundaries of Yosemite National Park.

“Please consider enlarging the National Park...”

(Individual, Clifton, NJ, Comment #394-1)

“Increase the size of the Park for more protection of environment and habitat.”

(Individual, Seattle, WA, Comment #404-3)

The National Park Service should acquire City of San Francisco lands within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“If San Francisco owns land in the river zone in Poopenaut Valley, is there need for acquisition of that parcel?”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-98)

“List parcels San Francisco owns within the river corridor. Is there a plan to acquire parcel(s) as stated in the DEIS GMP at p 71?”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-91)

Project Area Boundaries

Tuolumne River Plan Boundary

The TRP project area boundary should focus on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and not include areas outside the corridor.

“Want to focus on river corridor, not Tioga Lake.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-23)

The TRP project area boundary should include Vogelsang High Sierra Camp because of its impacts on the river.

“The Vogelsang HSC does not itself lie within the Tuolumne River watershed or Tuolumne Meadows area, but its very existence nearby has a substantial adverse impact on both river and meadows.”

(Recreational Organization, Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-6)

Tuolumne Meadows Plan Boundary

The National Park Service should define the TMP project area.

“Is the Tuolumne Meadows Plan focused on Tuolumne Meadows (segment 3)? What is the project area?”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-18)

“What is the physical extent of the Tuolumne Meadows Plan?”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-102)

“What is the scope and physical extent of the Tuolumne Meadows Plan?”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-6)

The National Park Service should take several factors into account when defining project area boundaries for the TMP.

“How do we define the extent of Tuolumne Meadows? Look at habitats and drainages; Existing development; Day hike areas, immediate watershed; Biological definition of meadow; Visitor services – e.g., VC, bookstore, groceries; Visitor experience – what kind of expectations are there? What kind of impacts?; How far beyond the meadow “proper” should we consider in the plan?; Tuolumne Meadows; Pothole Dome (west) to Lember Dome (east)?; Consider drainages and various habitats; Existing development; Hydro study area (~425 acres).”

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-42)

The TMP project area boundary should encompass the entire road corridor from Olmstead Point to Tioga Pass and other areas along the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Tuolumne Meadow plan project area should encompass entire corridor from Olmsted Point to Tioga Pass. There is a tendency for visitors to move back and forth within this corridor, then what happens in one part of tends to have an effect (impact) on other parts of it.”

(Individual, Comment #175-1)

“If areas like Olmstead Point and Teneya Lake are not considered to be within the TMP project area, then what plan includes them? Will there need to be an additional concept plan for these areas or will they be included in the WMP and/or GMP? The NPS should make the TMP project boundary broad enough to cover a lot of areas so that we don’t have to wait for another 20 years to address issues in these other areas.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-1)

“To implement the vision of the CMP, many others areas similarly must be included in the TM Plan that are outside the traditional Tuolumne Meadows, such as Tioga Pass, Dana Meadow, Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, relocation of domestic water supply away from the Dana Fork, overnight camping in Parker Meadow when the water supply is relocated, any trail in the river corridor that becomes a goal of the CMP for relocation, trail bridges that need repair, relocation or replacement, needed but intrusive trail maintenance in the designated river corridor, research areas on Lyell Glacier or at Pate Valley or anywhere along the designated wild segments, and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-11)

The TMP project area boundary should encompass Parker Meadow because of its vicinity to the Dana Fork Diversion Dam.

“Use of Parker Meadow is tied to the diversion dam on Dana Fork, so could Parker Meadow be included in the Tuolumne Meadow—as a Tuolumne and Parker meadows plan?”

(Conservation Organizations, California, Comment #298-7)

Science/Resource-based Decision-Making

The National Park Service should acquire more than one year of baseline data for the TRP/TMP planning process.

“NPS is trying to respond to lack of data with 1 yr of data collection.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-6)

“Don’t think the NPS has detailed info on temp variations of the river, already don’t believe NPS has extensive data and cannot collect generate in a 12 mo span without extrapolating with error. The CMP will not be in cement because we don’t have enough data (just like the 1980 GMP).”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-38)

The National Park Service should clarify what baseline data is available for the TRP/TMP EIS.

“What is the baseline data for the plan (temp, flow, landscape)? How far back does it go?”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-25)

The National Park Service should expand scientific study and the collection of baseline data within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Scientific study should continue and be expanded. I notice especially a lack of information about butterflies.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-34)

“Current projects in T. M. to study plant life (both indigenous and invasive), wildlife, the water table, sound, social trailing, and the like are right on target. Keep these and more up and running (read- financed). Without firm data, regardless of the guidelines decided on, impacts of implementation cannot be properly projected.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-8)

The National Park Service should define baseline conditions of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor as those that existed in 1984 when the river was designated Wild and Scenic.

“Since the Wild and Scenic River Act requires the TRP, and given that the Tuolumne River was designated as such in 1984, please baseline the data used in studies and decisions from 1984, and accurately define the various segments being studied and planned. Short of adequate methodologies and scientific processes to collect and analyze data, the condition of the river and its corridor should be determined at the time for the Wild and Scenic designation.”

(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #319-5)

“The Tuolumne River was designated Wild and Scenic in 1984. Congress mandated that a comprehensive management plan must be developed within three years of the designation. The NPS is just now starting that process. It will be difficult in 2006 to determine what the baseline resource conditions were in 1984 at the time of designation. Those baseline conditions should be the starting point for evaluating “non-degradation.””

(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, CA, Comment #256-3)

“The Tuolumne River Trust recommends that the National Park Service use resource conditions at the time of designation in 1984 as a baseline for evaluating “non-degradation” of river resources in the years since designation. Given the amount of time that has lapsed since the designation of the Tuolumne River as Wild and Scenic, we believe mitigation measures are needed to mitigate for any degradation of the ORVs over the years. We recommend designing reintroduction programs for any species that may have been extirpated from the Tuolumne River corridor.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-4)

The National Park Service should be guided by the observations of natural processes made by Dr. Carl Sharsmith in developing the TRP/TMP EIS.

“Dr. Sharsmith's observations on life cycles, the natural processes, are why Yosemite was established as a national park. The law states preserve for future generations means the natural processes of which Dr. Sharsmith was speaking. Let these guide the “plan” and the river.”

(Individual, Pleasant Hill, CA, Comment #241-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include the observations and analyses of the Tuolumne Meadows winter rangers.

“Along with those scientists who are studying such issues as amphibian habitat and the encroachment of pines on certain areas of the meadow (something I've noticed as well), I urge you to give special consideration to the analysis and opinions of the winter rangers. More than anyone, they possess a unique knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of this special place.”

(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider and adopt the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project's (SNEP) findings.

“The Tuolumne River Plan should take into account and complement the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project's (SNEP) findings.”

(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, CA, Comment #256-9)

“Is the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) going to be integrated/how is the info being utilized to manage river as part of the whole Sierra Nevada? If not included, then we want a response as to why.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-39)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include a needs assessment for all permitted commercial enterprises within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Your EISs must include a needs assessment for any/all permitted commercial enterprises.”

(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-8)

Relationship to State and County Planning

The National Park Service should use California State campgrounds as a role model to guide campground planning in Tuolumne Meadows.

“We suggest using Sugar Pine Point Campground--a California State campground on the west shore of Lake Tahoe--as a role model. We realize the short camping season make it less practical to spiff up the place than campgrounds on the valley floor.”

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #259-1)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider any adjacent county general plans.

“Do contiguous counties have views and general plan requirements that need to be considered in planning for the river zone or in Tuolumne Meadows?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-75)

The National Park Service should consider the transportation policies adopted by the Mono County Local Transportation Commission in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Please consider the following transportation policies adopted by the Mono County Local Transportation Commission for the Yosemite area in your planning process. These policies, adopted several years ago, are contained within the Mono County Regional Transportation Plan. As an active member of YARTS, Mono County continues to support a strong relationship with Yosemite, particularly the Tuolumne area.”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-1)

“Yosemite National Park is a national and world-wide treasure that must be protected and preserved. Bordering the Park’s eastern boundary, and serving as its only access point from Eastern California, Mono County is an important component of the Yosemite region. Through its transportation planning efforts, the Mono LTC will assist in the preservation and protection of the Park by strengthening the relationship between the Yosemite region and its eastern gateway.”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-2)

“Local Mono Transportation Commission looking at safety improvements – some problems with CalTrans. This planning effort could help foster better inter-agency cooperation on these issues.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-41)

Relationship to Other Yosemite National Park Plans

The National Park Service should clearly define the relationship between the TRP/TMP and other general park plans and policies.

“Management of the Tuolumne River corridor within Yosemite National Park seems to be covered by various plans and policies such as the Yosemite National Park General Management Plan, the National Park Service Wilderness Policy, the Yosemite Fire Management Plan, and the Concessions Services Plan. We recommend clarifying the relationship and interaction of the Tuolumne River Plan to these existing plans and policies.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-1)

“Relationship of Tuolumne W&S river management plan to other NPS organic act planning efforts affecting the Tuolumne River should be discussed. Consider appropriate consolidation of plans. Clarify details of which plans will address which decisions.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-8)

General Management Plan

The TRP/TMP should amend some of the recommendations called for in the 1980 General Management Plan.

“I’m not advocating that the unaccomplished recommendations on p 28 and 29 (of the GMP) be implemented since some of them are misguided as seen from 26 years later and would diminish my enjoyment. For example, walking on what appears to be a historic road and trail crossing of the meadow and the footbridge is very important to me.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-32)

“The Draft, Final, and Summary GMP and Summary of the Natural Resources Management Plan, July 1977 all focus little on resources, but mostly on human built things that could impact the resources or visitors enjoyment of

the resources. The focus is on roads, parking, trails, trails in fragile meadows, campgrounds, lodging, staff and employee housing, stables, water supply, sewage treatment and disposal, food service, swimming pools and gift shops, historical and cultural resources that are fragile and often located near rivers and the number, location and size of these manmade features. That's ok for Cathedral peak, which doesn't move or rapidly wear away. However, I'm disturbed by that approach since rivers do move, change their banks, provide recreation in many forms and need attention and management to protect water quality, frogs, too much non-native fish stocking and visitor access that can damage banks. In the CMP goals for the river and its floodplain, these must be comprehensive and exhaustive discussed and options offered. For the river and its floodplain, the CMP is far more important than the vague GMP, which almost totally ignores this river. The only bright spot in the Final GMP is a couple of letters talking about the TR p 94-98 and even some of the park responses have not been well followed up. Yes, this amendment to the GMP is needed and is important for this park resource."

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-57)

Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan

The National Park Service should define the relationship between the Merced River Plan (MRP) and the TRP.

"Functional relationships need to be identified between MRP and TRP."

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-4)

The National Park Service should implement a valid Comprehensive Management Plan for the Merced River before commencing a planning process for the Tuolumne River.

"Park officials have publicly stated that the Merced River Plan has provided the learning foundation for preparing the Tuolumne Plan. Park staff should be focused on finishing what was started in 1999, rather than being spread thin with the planning frenzy currently going on in the Park. The County believes a protective Merced River Plan must be first priority before Yosemite Valley is more severely impacted."

(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, CA, Comment #256-11)

"As regards the Tuolumne River Plan: It is my opinion that this Plan should not be undertaken until the Park Service has created a legally adequate Merced River Plan. You folks need to demonstrate to Judge Ishii and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that you can create an acceptable Comprehensive Management Plan for the Merced Wild and Scenic River ...which task is some 16 years unfulfilled. Park staff should focus on finishing the Merced River Plan ... a protective Plan that should be the first and principle priority if Yosemite Valley is to be protected. This would also mean that a Tuolumne River Plan will have an acceptable model so that it can be on target the first time it is put together and so avoid the years of litigation which has plagued the Merced River Plan."

(Individual, St. Helena, CA, Comment #257-2)

"A legally adequate Merced River CMP needs to be in place first. The Tuolumne River Plan needs to be put on the back burner until the Park Service can demonstrate to Judge Ishii and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that it can create a legally adequate Comprehensive Management Plan for the Merced Wild and Scenic River. Park officials have publicly stated that the Merced River Plan has provided the learning foundation for preparing the Tuolumne Plan. A protective Merced River Plan must be a first priority. The Tuolumne River Plan is already 19 years late; a little more delay would enable the NPS to benefit from learning what the courts will require in order to have a legally valid Merced River Plan."

(Environmental Organization, CA, Comment #296-1)

The National Park Service should consider developing the TRP and Merced River Plan (MRP) at the same time.

"Concerning doing TR & MR plans in parallel or at least at the same time: I favor doing both at the same time since some folks focus more on one than the other and can thus avoid planning fatigue. This can work if there is adequate YNP planning staff to keep both on a reasonable schedule."

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #128-1)

Yosemite Valley Plan

The National Park Service should acknowledge discontent with the Yosemite Valley Plan and the Merced River Plan.

“If you look at the Valley, compared to here you will see how it's "plan" has dragged it through development.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #22-7)

“While the valley is still amazingly beautiful, aspects of it encourage consumption and waste, and the "conservation" focus of the Park Service mission is plowed down in order to provide extreme enjoyment. Surely the park can be enjoyed without water and electricity hookups for 35 ft RVs! I'm alluding to the Valley Plan of course.”
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #29-4)

“The Merced River Plan and Yosemite Valley Plan both need to be re-written. Not just acts when writing plan; need to look at all other studies, reports, case law, other plans and policies (all tied together relative to these plans).”

Wilderness Management Plan

The TRP/TMP EIS should include management for river segments that are not included in the Wilderness Management Plan.

“Wilderness Management Plan will pick up only 80% of the river, not 100%.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-21)

The National Park Service should retain and enforce the direction in the Wilderness Management Plan that pertains to cross-country travel with stock.

“Cross-country (offtrail) travel with stock. One very important element in Yosemite's existing Wilderness Management Plan (WMP) is the prohibition on cross-country travel by groups with stock animals or groups over 8 persons. The plan states: "It is Service policy to deemphasize cross-country travel by limiting such travel in Yosemite Wilderness to groups of eight people or fewer. This plan recognizes actual and potential environmental deterioration from off-trail use." and "Stock must travel on designated trails or authorized stock routes and remain within one quarter mile of trails for watering, rest stops, and camping." This important language must be retained (and strengthened as per our comments above). We recommend against any attempt to weaken this language or to open new areas to off-trail stock use.”
(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-44)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address loopholes in the Yosemite Wilderness Management Plan regarding stock use in Wilderness.

“Two harmful loopholes in the current WMP must be addressed during the planning process for Tuolumne River/Meadows. First, the exceptions in the WMP (Appendix G) for cross-country travel by stock animals must be removed. Secondly, nowhere does the plan list or define "designated" or "established" trails. (Appendix G lists "authorized" exceptions but not the "designated" or "established" trails on which large groups are permitted). Some older maps, still in use, show trails that are no longer maintained, and which are not suitable for travel with stock or by large groups. A list or map clearly defining what trails/routes are open to travel with stock and by large groups in the Tuolumne River and Meadows areas should be addressed in these planning processes. This will make clear, to both the public and agency personnel, which routes are open and closed to travel with stock and to large groups. We request the opportunity to review the map or list described above before it is adopted. It should be included in the draft environmental impact statements (DEISs) for these planning processes.”
(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-45)

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS RELATED TO WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT, SEE 'WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT', PAGE 41.

Implementation Plans and Projects

The National Park Service should clarify what portions of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River will require an implementation plan.

“What portions of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River will require an implementation plan?”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-20)

Funding

Implementation Funding

The National Park Service should designate funding for improvements within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“I realize any new improvements hinges on funding. If money is available I would be in favor of these improvements.”
(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #255-3)

“I wish there was just money for the upkeep of things.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-142)

“Costs! You say: it has to be cost-effective! But what is the complete meaning of “cost” We have to go beyond the initial economic costs. But, you say, we have constraints. Our budget has been slashed. Well, here is the opportunity to bring this problem forward to the courageous to insist on standing for the real needs instead of backing down to “what is?””
(Individual, Springfield, OR, Comment #360-5)

The National Park Service should designate capital assets in order of priority to plan for the unexpected future.

“Also, please designate all capital assets prone to natural and destructive influences, along with anticipated actions should specific impacts to the asset occur; show assets as essential, desirable, or nice to have, and designate priority treatment of those assets in the event of natural disasters or insufficient funding for adequate and proper operation/maintenance.”
(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #319-8)

The National Park Service should ensure that the planning process acknowledges funding feasibility for implementation of TRP/TMP prescriptions.

“We strongly suggest the National Park Service work to create an effective plan that can be implemented according to the current financial situation of park. Basically, we hope the planning team will evaluate the financial resources available to the area and plan accordingly.”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-24)

The TRP/TMP EIS should present alternatives in financial terms and identify the resources available to effectively implement the proposed alternative.

“In the draft environmental impact statement, we ask the planning team to present the alternatives in “dollar and cent” terms—how does the proposed alternative(s) compare to resources available to effectively implement the alternative?”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-25)

Funding Sources

The National Park Service should increase park funding.

"We've had a wonderful experience in Tuolumne Meadows, however, it would be great to see the park expanded- more funding, more land, more maintenance of trails."
(Individual, Annapolis, MD, Comment #380-1)

"It looks like no money has been put into this park in 25 years. The services available are third world country. The US govt. should be ashamed of how little care is put into the parks. Where are the tax dollars we pay every year. We have National Park Pass every year and it appears no money gets put into park system."
(Individual, Juno, FL, Comment #94-2)

"Any additional facilities to potentially promote more park income would be a sell-out by the NPS. The key to better conservation, maintenance, prevention and all key aspects of protecting the park fall into better funding from our government (and aggressive campaigning), retention of park fees and volunteerism, to name a few."
(Individual, Comment #148-4)

The National Park Service should increase funding to the national parks using tax dollars.

"I support increased funding of the park's needs using my tax dollars!"
(Individual, Madison, WI, Comment #339-3)

The National Park Service should avoid reducing services or facilities in order to ensure that adequate operating funds remain available.

"If services are removed or reduced then the budget for these services would also be cut. In my experience it is harder to put funds back into a budget than to keep them in their already established position in the budget. Thus, if it is decided in the future that any services that had been removed should be reinstated, it may prove difficult to find the funds for them again."
(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-4)

"Removing facilities usually means a reduced budget for operation; money is always harder to get back which is something to consider before reducing any facilities."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-35)

The National Park Service should consider soliciting private and corporate donations to increase park funding.

"Funding, of course, is the key item to implementing any change. Can the NPS solicit private donations, large corporate donations? For example, would Microsoft be interested in donating money and wireless network services, in exchange for advertising?- Private industry deals with money shortfalls in the short term (until revenue increases) with better efficiency -- layoffs of duplicated jobs, more service automation (payroll, automatically flushing toilets, etc), strict review of expenses and finances."
(Individual, Long Beach, CA, Comment #223-6)

"Create more ways for funding to grow thru corporate sponsors."
(Individual, Irvington, AL, Comment #435-2)

The National Park Service should avoid soliciting donations from private or corporate interests.

"NPCA [National Parks Conservation Association] should know the consequences of garnering donations/influencing decision-making/have a moral obligation of actions and follow up with them."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-50)

The National Park Service should develop a balance between funding capital infrastructure improvements and funding staff.

“Need long-range projections for funding interpretive programs/rangers. Specify the balance between capital infrastructure improvements and funding the people who protect and educate.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-36)

“Funding for naturalists should be more stable and dependable.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-36)

“Some of the problems and needs seem to be resulting at least in part, because of inadequate staffing levels. And we all know that there must be more money allocated to the NPS and the parks in order to do the things that could be done better and/or improvements that could be made.”

(Individual, Dunedin, FL, Comment #171-9)

The National Park Service should prioritize funding for projects that park managers identify as important, rather than funding projects based on risk of litigation.

“Thank you for your planning efforts for the Tuolumne WSR and the Tuolumne area. I am disheartened that the planning “bar” is set so high to require such efforts. I would much rather see effort and funding put toward projects that park managers identify as important, rather than projects being funded based on appeal risk.”

(Individual, Fish Camp, CA, Comment #174-1)

The National Park Service should specify the source for funding data collection in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and whether funding will be long-term.

“Where does funding for these summer studies come from? Will it be long-term funding?”

(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #266-40)

The National Park Service should consider alternative ways to fund Search and Rescue efforts.

“I’d pay for a wilderness permit if funds help better manage wilderness/SAR efforts.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-119)

“Rescue Insurance? If not the case, then I would be willing to pay to compensate/offset cost of SAR. Could money be spent on other projects/help efforts?”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-148)

Park Fees

The National Park Service should consider using pricing mechanisms to cover the costs of Tioga Road opening activities.

“Consider using pricing mechanisms as a means to fund Tioga Road opening activities.”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-22)

The National Park Service should issue trans-route visitor passes for those passing through Tuolumne.

“Special passes for trans-route visitors. Hwy 120 is a major road; want to see a little bit, and that’s fine.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-132)

The National Park Service should consider charging entrance fees based on vehicle size and weight.

“Charge entrance fee by vehicle weight. Heavy vehicles do more damage. Extra charge for diesels since they pollute more.”

(Individual, Pasadena, CA, Comment #361-7)

“Charge more for RVs by length. Ferrys charge by length.”

(Individual, Bonita, CA, Comment #427-5)

The National Park Service should give discounts to groups who camp outside of the park.

“Develop other areas in the Sierras, link websites of national and state open space. Give discounts to “group” travelers to go to other less well-known areas. Rise to the challenge and keep us humans from killing Yosemite and the Meadows by too many visitors.”

(Individual, Saratoga, CA, Comment #156-2)

The National Park Service should charge affordable camping fees.

“And it (camping) should be an affordable experience as well. No fees higher than \$25 US dollars per night stay; 25% discount for people 55 years and older.”

(Individual, Escondido, CA, Comment #133-3)

“For \$20 a site + 20 to enter. Way too much.”

(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #383-2)

The National Park Service should consider a volunteer contribution program at park entrances to help fund environmental improvements.

“Offer volunteer \$1 contribution with the park entrance fee, targeted towards specific on-going environmental improvements.”

(Individual, Newbury, MA, Comment #90-2)

Public Involvement

The National Park Service should consult closely with Tuolumne Meadows employees during the TRP/TMP EIS planning process.

“The employees who work in Tuolumne are loyal to the area and can offer more than decent advise on changes and improvements; I hope we are consulted.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #33-2)

“My best advice is to seek out and listen to the people who live and work in Tuolumne. They will have far greater insight as to what works and what doesn’t; what is most needed; what can be eliminated, etc. than any visitor or employees who work elsewhere in the park.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-16)

The National Park Service should recognize the skepticism of many in the public in regards to its planning efforts.

“I have no faith that the plan will reflect the concerns of the people that actually live here. If the powers that be want to make this place an amusement park, like the Valley, I have no doubt that they will. We will have a hard time stopping them.”

(Individual, Comment #15-2)

“Although I appreciate the emphasis on public input for the Tuolumne plan, I feel confused, annoyed with, and cynical about the planning process. I understand that the scoping period is generally open for suggestions and

ideas, and that no informal, concrete decisions have been officially made. Therefore, we as "interested individuals" should voice all of our concerns and desires for the future of Tuolumne Meadows..."
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #29-2)

"I want to begin these comments with the observation that people are shunning their participation in the EIS. One person in particular whom I talked to, [NAME DELETED], asked me if I received a notice for scoping comments on the Tuolumne River /Meadows Plans. I had. Likewise, she had, but she was loathe to respond because she had responded and followed the scoping process for the Valley and felt betrayed by it. I am in sympathy with her plight of feeling, having responded to numerous NEPA scoping processes with comments."
(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-1)

The National Park Service should avoid misusing the public's time in the TRP/TMP planning process.

"[Avoid] Misusing public's time."
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-85)

The National Park Service should avoid incorporating negative public scoping comments into the TRP/TMP EIS.

"Do what needs to be done in spite of public comment. 90% of comments are negative. What's Joe Public know anyway except he's full of opinions."
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #93-1)

The National Park Service should extend the public scoping period for the TRP/TMP EIS.

"Why does the NPS get 18 mo. for internal scoping/ and public only gets 2 mo?"
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-3)

"Wish we had more time to think about this process and digest what the NPS is up to...have heard from the community that we need more time."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-12)

"We submit this comment letter with fundamental objection to the way this scoping process has been initiated this summer. Beyond a mere process concern, we think that scoping has been injected with such obvious prejudice regarding outcomes, that the public deserves additional time and a very different informational context in order to provide meaningful scoping comments, and in order for the Agency's to fulfill its legal responsibility under NEPA."
(Environmental Organization, Yosemite, Comment #300-1)

The National Park Service should re-initiate public scoping for the TMP in summer 2007.

"Public scoping for TMP should be done in two phases (next summer for TMP)."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-17)

"Official scoping for Tuolumne Meadows Plan needs to be re-initiated next summer."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-7)

The National Park Service should include formal representation by key public communities when preparing the Final TRP/TMP EIS and the Record of Decision.

"Formal representation needed by key public communities in creating 1) Record of Decision and 2) Final Drafts."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-88)

The National Park Service should ensure that there is adequate public involvement in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Thousands of people may not have their voices heard as part of this scoping process because they don’t visit store or other places and no attempt is made to contact DNC or visit a place where info is.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-46)

“The planning team should give the public more direction with the TRP/TMP (For instance, what impacts do we have to worry about?).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-64)

“Involve the public so that no group or interest feels left out or that their views are not heard or considered. Distance yourself from any appearance that the Park is representing the concessionaire goals while giving the concessionaire equal chance to speak for their interests. In a word, let your work be transparent to public view.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-19)

The National Park Service has been successful in involving individuals in the TRP/TMP EIS planning process.

“Tuolumne is my favorite part of Yosemite and is the main reason I got involved in the planning effort.”

(Individual, Comment #28-1)

“I’m glad I have the opportunity to comment on the Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan.”

(Individual, Mountain View, CA, Comment #137-1)

“We have been privileged to be a part of the planning for Yosemite since the first public opinion was initiated years ago. Yosemite has been a part of our lives for over 50 years.”

(Individual, Comment #142-1)

The National Park Service should recognize that planning in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor is important to the public.

“What happens to Tuolumne is important in so many ways to so many people. And it feels as if it matters especially to us. I suspect many people feel the same way.”

(Individual, Comment #215-4)

The National Park Service should make more effort to solicit public comment on the TRP/TMP EIS.

“We have been guests of Tuolumne Lodge for 3 days, and only today did a ranger inform of the opportunity to comment on the future of this uniquely wonderful gateway to wilderness. I should have thought that a serious effort to solicit comments would have reached us sooner. Leaving a clip board by the side of the road suggests a minimal effort to seek comments from the public.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #433-1)

The National Park Service should invite animal protection groups to comment on the TRP/TMP EIS.

“I WANT ANIMAL PROTECTION GROUPS INVITED TO COMMENT ON THIS PLAN.”

(Individual, Comment #4-1)

Informational Materials

The National Park Service should clarify their plans for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor in informational documents.

“I can't really tell what is actually going to happen (change?) around here based on the flier.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #72-1)

“I have received regular emails about the park's Tuolumne Meadows. Most have been ambiguous about what the powers-to-be want to do.”
(Individual, Comment #141-1)

“I would be interested in receiving info on the plan...it's hard to give input when you don't know what the plan is!”
(Individual, Valencia, CA, Comment #204-1)

The National Park Service should provide online information that helps the public submit informed scoping comments.

“I am dismayed by the Park Service's failure to provide online information that adequately helps the public submit pertinent, informed scoping comments on this effort. I encountered several problems. The first problem was the Web URL printed on the mailed flyer: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/yose/>. This is an overly vague URL. It does not directly reference a page that highlights current planning efforts or documents. That's a problem because this URL does not reliably redirect to the generated page that is intended to display that information from your repository. The second problem: If visitors succeed in navigating to your site's "Open for Planning" page: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/openPlansEachParkDocs.cfm?parkId=347...> that page does not show any documents whose titles are obviously related to the current "Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan. Third problem: The above page's claimed link to a document titled "Participant Guide: Planning in Tuolumne" is a dead link... So that document cannot be downloaded. Fourth and final problem, perhaps related to this dead link: All of your PDF files' names include spaces. This is a sloppy practice, which invites linking problems like the one above. Professional practice in a multi-platform environment (like the Web) is to remove all spaces from file and path names. To prevent such problems, please replace these silly spaces with-dashes or_underscores.”
(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #287-6)

The National Park Service should clarify any errors on the public scoping brochure.

“[O]n the brochure titled, Welcome to Planning for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and Tuolumne Meadows the wording the TMP “will identify opportunities for restoration and reduced facilities...” Questioning the word “reduced” I was told by the NPS person that that word was an error. I know that a lot of thought and planning goes into creation of these brochures and wonder how an error of that seriousness could wind up in print. What I would like is confirmation that, in fact, “reduced” is not a criterion of these Plans – or is it?”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #111-1)

Written Comments

The National Park Service should accept anonymous comments on the TRP/TMP EIS.

“Why do you need to put a name to an opinion? Does it make my opinion less valid because I didn't sign my name?”
(Individual, Comment #15-4)

“Please accept anonymous comments!”
(Individual, Comment #369-1)

The National Park Service should ensure that all public scoping comments are considered in the TRP/TMP EIS planning process.

“Now that I've played the comment game I would like to add that I have a sneaky suspicion that my suggestions (and others like it) will be ignored.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #29-6)

“The Access Fund hopes these and other public comments will help identify the appropriate range of issues that should be addressed in this planning effort that will help ensure that future NPS actions are consistent with the National Park Service Organic Act, various Yosemite management plans, and other relevant laws and policies.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-4)

Public Meetings

The National Park Service should consider expanding public scoping meetings to other areas.

“I am appalled that you are not holding at least one open house in the southern San Joaquin Valley or southern California. It may interest the NPS to know that many visitors to Yosemite actually do not live in northern California.”

(Individual, Comment #28-2)

“Fresno, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Reno, San Diego, Bend Oregon, Orange County, Ventura County are good scoping areas too.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-104)

“Where will next series of public meetings be held? See mailing list. E-newsletter, website, press releases. Where should we be? Bay Area, Fresno, Los Angeles, Reno, wherever there are big concentrations of people (Orange County or southern Ventura County). Bend, OR (75,000 people)? People are moving to Bend for the same type of area as Tuolumne Meadows and park.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-126)

The National Park Service should ensure that public scoping meetings are accurately advertised in newspapers.

“Newspaper ad did not publish correct dates.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-84)

The National Park Service should ensure that notices of public meetings reach the public in a timely manner.

“Today is August 27, 2006. I received the notice of Public Site Visit yesterday on the 26th. I live in Los Angeles. As a frequent park visitor for many years I do have an voice in what happens at Yosemite.(think I do) How you (NPS) Can expect me to Drive 400 plus miles on this short a notice for a 2 hour meeting. Did you not know you were going to have the meeting 30 days ago? And I know how these meeting go. They are cut off exactly at the time indicated no matter how many people came to be heard. So I choose not to come.”

(Individual, Comment #139-1)

“I do appreciate the opportunity to comment although the invitation reached me too late for me to attend the August 29th on-site visit.”

(Individual, St. Helena, CA, Comment #257-1)

“Per your mailer, that arrived after the public site visit on August 29th, I am responding. Please send these invitations out sooner so that I may have ample opportunity to attend should I so desire.”

(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-1)

The National Park Service should announce public meetings in the Yosemite Today newsletter.

“I think it would be helpful to have future public meetings or comment periods announced in the “Yosemite Today” Newsletter.”

(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-17)

The National Park Service has been successful in conducting public meetings for the TRP/TMP EIS scoping process.

“I want to thank you and your staff for conducting the recent public scoping sessions requesting public comment in planning for the future of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows area. You staff is doing an exemplary job and should be commended for their knowledge of the issues and ability to interact with the public in a pleasant and enjoyable way.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-1)

“I met you at Fort Mason and we discussed whitewater kayaking, flows, watersheds, and access issues. I just wanted to thank you for developing a very professional and easy to understand presentation on the plan process, and for making the comment process easier with flip charts, rather than the traditional microphone.”

(Individual, Comment #247-1)

“I commend the NPS for undertaking this planning process and, in light of the many open houses, its determined effort to secure wide-ranging public input.”

(Individual, Comment #343-1)

The National Park Service should increase advertising efforts for public scoping meetings.

“Next round of scoping needs more advertising.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-102)

“We need more information. Impromptu meetings could have information about it and passed out at gates (1/2 sheet flyer).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-66)

“We need more information; we got here by accident!”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-124)

State Agency Consultation

The TRP/TMP EIS should define the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's interests in the planning process.

“Description of jurisdiction, authority, mission and interests of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board – and their likely interests in management actions and facilities affecting water quality of the Tuolumne River within YNP and in BLM managed area.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-17)

The National Park Service should consult with Air and Transportation districts for concerns on the TRP/TMP EIS planning process.

“Contact Air Districts for and Transportation Districts for their concerns, and consider institutional arrangements for handling solid waste as they relate to this river plan and Tuolumne Meadows plan.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-18)

Federal Agency Consultation

The National Park Service should consult with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Consider USFS downstream.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-57)

“Ask the Stanislaus National Forest Service if they need to open any issues they share jointly with other river managers. Are there any concerns from the Inyo or Toiyabe National Forests that should be addressed in this management plan?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-10)

The National Park Service should consult with the Federal Aeronautical Administration in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Open conversation between FAA and NPS about commercial over flights.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-127)

The National Park Service should consult with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Are there any concerns from the Bureau of Land Management that need to be addressed in this management plan for the segment of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River they manage above Don Pedro Reservoir? Ascertain whether the BLM would like to accomplish a plan update for their portion of the Tuolumne within the NPS W&S river management plan.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-9)

“In developing a Tuolumne River Plan, we recommend that the National Park Service coordinate planning efforts with other agencies to ensure that all 83 miles of the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne are protected. In particular we recommend that the NPS consult with the Stanislaus National Forest and Bureau of Land Management, to ensure that Yosemite’s Tuolumne Plan contributes to the protection and enhancement of downstream ORVs.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-2)

The National Park Service should consult with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Does EPA have concerns about water quality on the Tuolumne in any river segments in the park, or about other issues in this river zone?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-16)

The National Park Service should consult with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Are there any concerns from the Bureau of Indian Affairs that need to be addressed in this management? Are there concerns from the several Bands of the Me-Wuk Tribe living near the park and near the BLM portion of the river that need to be addressed?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-13)

Tribal Government Consultation

The National Park Service should consult more closely with the Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiutes in the TRP/TMP planning process.

“We Yosemite-Mono Lake Paiutes would like more input into the how the Tuolumne River Planning is handled. We Paiutes were the original Indian people of Tuolumne River from where the Yosemite border starts. The Miwoks were below that area. The Miwoks and Paiutes did not trade, but the Paiutes held the area. The material that is being used was with input from Craig Bates who we Paiutes have no confidence in. We have checked his work and found that many of his writings are contrived. He was adopted by a Miwok family and later married a Miwok woman. His work and writings are incorrect and influenced by his marriage to a Miwok and his adoption by a Miwok family.”

Yosemite National Park Service should be dealing more with the Paiutes in the area, than with the Miwoks who were brought up to work in the area for whites. Our leadership and historians have written documentation before any new documentation was created to assist the Tuolumne and other Miwoks in the area. So Yosemite should contact the Paiute tribes who were the people of Tuolumne River above a certain point.”
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #224-1)

“Yosemite is getting a biased view of only Miwoks in Yosemite and the park area. Where is our Paiute representation? Where is our history in the park? Where is our "Paiutes in Yosemite Loop" and Paiute village? Since we were the original people of Yosemite in the first place. We would like Paiutes included in the Tuolumne River plan and Tuolumne Meadows planning since it was our area.”
(Tribal Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #289-1)

Consultation with Concessioners, Park Partners, and Gateway Communities

The National Park Service should consult with other park employers during the TRP/TMP planning process.

“I think that the public relations aspect of the plans is critical. There needs to be representatives talking to employees everywhere (all employees ex. DNC, NPS, YA, YI) and if and when something is subject to change like the moving of a store, lodge, campground, have personal meetings with those people who will make the plan easier or more difficult.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #16-1)

“NPS: Do a survey of DNC employees regarding - DNC - NPS/concession relationships - suggestions/ comments, ideas, etc. for Yosemite National Park from those who are here every day of the year - favorite hikes, worst hikes: why? How to improve? - Suggestions on how to improve: THE YOSEMITE EXPERIENCE.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #445-1)

The National Park Service should avoid any pressures from the Park concessioner in planning for the TRP/TMP.

“Any for-profit enterprises should be looked upon with extreme skepticism.”
(Individual, Comment #115-4)

“I worry that DNC will unduly influence process (promises of money, etc.) Corporations have no place in these decisions. No hotels like Tenaya up here!!!”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-246)

“It is more important to listen to input of the non-DNC stakeholders – don’t let this plan get influenced by mega-corporation (A concern that it might be).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-224)

The National Park Service should collaborate with gateway communities to ensure accurate information is available to visitors of these communities.

“Plan for and promote the concept that the Yosemite experience begins in the gateway communities. Marketing the Yosemite experience should be a countywide effort.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-17)

“Accurate and timely information about conditions in the Park should be available in the gateway communities.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-23)

The National Park Service should consult with gateway communities throughout the TRP/TMP planning process.

“Resource management decisions in the Park (e.g. changes in allowable land uses, access, and overnight accommodations) should consider associated impacts to gateway communities and access corridors.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-28)

“Some park superintendents have reached out to the eastside gateway communities; others have ignored them. If the NPS is serious about being “partners” with these communities, there needs to be more cooperation with the state, counties and Caltrans to establish some kind of consistent policy.”
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-14)

“Strengthen relationships with gateways to help with data gathering related to visitors and visitor use.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-54)

The National Park Service should avoid allowing gateway interests to guide park management.

“The gateway communities will obviously need to be involved, but they should never be allowed to interfere with the park mission or decisions such as when to plow the Tioga Road. Their goal has always seemed to be economic profit from their proximity to the park. Good relations must be maintained, but their goals are not always complementary with the goals of the park.”
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-6)

Non-governmental Organizations Consultation

The National Park Service should closely consult with the Tuolumne River Trust throughout the TRP/TMP planning process.

“The Tuolumne River Trust is committed to working with Yosemite Park staff in a collaborative and productive manner to develop a management plan that successfully protects the River’s outstandingly remarkable values while enhancing the visitor experience at the same time. We believe that the best plan will come about through solution oriented collaboration that includes active inclusion of the public so that no group or interest feels left out or that their views are not heard or considered. This should include active collaboration with other agencies that are inextricably related to this planning effort. As the organization that formed around the effort to designate this stretch of the Tuolumne as a Wild and Scenic River twenty five years ago, the Trust is looking forward to playing a key role in this effort.”
(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-15)

Wild and Scenic River Management

Existing Conditions

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify the impacts of existing facilities and visitor use on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and ORVs.

“We recommend that NPS analyze existing facilities, including the Dana Fork Dam, Tuolumne Meadows facilities, and Raker Act facilities within the Wild and Scenic corridor, to assess their impacts on the Tuolumne’s ORVs.”
(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-6)

“We encourage analysis of positive and negative impacts of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, tent cabins, park buildings, roads, campgrounds and employee housing have on the Tuolumne River corridor with particular emphasis on existing parking facilities, including illegal parking activities, on the Tuolumne Meadows environment and the ORVs identified for this River segment (hydrologic, geologic, biologic, prehistoric and American Indian cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational).”
(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-13)

“What impacts do paved and unpaved roads, and paved and unpaved parking areas in Tuolumne Meadows have on the Tuolumne River through road runoff and increased siltation in the river? What impacts do paved and unpaved roads, and paved and unpaved parking areas at Hetch Hetchy have on the Tuolumne River through road runoff and increased siltation in the river? What impact do the trail bridges have on the Tuolumne River corridor? Are power tools and equipment used in Yosemite Wilderness for maintenance and repair of these bridges and trails? Do the John Muir and Pacific Crest trails have an adverse impact on the Tuolumne River and the Tuolumne River corridor? If any, what corrective steps need to be taken?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-68)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify potential impacts to existing facilities within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Within designated protected corridor, what will happen to already existing development?”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-211)

Management Direction

The National Park Service should document the history of past decisions regarding river boundaries, segments and classifications and prioritize review and revision of those decisions in this planning effort.

“This planning effort may require the first NPS post designation Tuolumne W&S segmentation, boundary delineation, classification, and management plan completion in this comprehensive planning effort. If the NPS believes that these decisions have already been made consistent with applicable law, this history needs to be documented, and the desirability of reviewing and/or revising previous decisions should be one of the early focuses of the planning team.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-4)

The National Park Service should not exceed current levels of development in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Wild natural places should not require money or development in order to “protect” them. Just make sure it stays the same by doing nothing and keeping everyone from doing anything. Tuolumne is near perfect.”
(Individual, Comment #64-6)

The National Park Service should continue to protect and manage the Tuolumne River as a Wild and Scenic River.

“For the sake of future generations of wildlife and people, we need to keep the Tuolumne River wild & scenic. Any amendment(s) to the Wild & Scenic status of the Tuolumne River should be strengthened, only -- not weakened.”
(Individual, Comment #180-2)

“Preserve a wild, and beautiful river dominated by natural processes that offers visitors a chance to explore, while keeping the place intact.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-6)

“I think the Park Service is doing a terrific job to protect the Tuolumne River, just as it is doing to protect the Merced River. Keep up the great work!”
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #344-1)

The National Park Service should protect the free flowing condition of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Without the free flowing river, we would not have the plant or wildlife; we are all integral to the ecosystem.”
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #213-2)

“It is so important that we continue to protect this watershed and its free flowing nature from the headwaters and out beyond the borders of this park.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-6)

The National Park Service should consult with planning team members from the 1979 Tuolumne River Study and EIS on the current Tuolumne River planning process.

“More information on the team thinking in 1979 might be gained from team members Carl W Rust who is no longer at the Forest Service and I am vague as to where he is now living, Gary Barbano, Geographer at NPS, Michael Skinner, Economist at FS. Hugh Riecken, Forester at BLM and James Mills, Geographer at Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (Final Plan p 107). Files for the team are at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisors Office in Sonora (532-3671). John Maschi a planner may be able to help locate them. Missing from the Final Report are any of the transcripts of the three public hearings. Those may be with the permanent Report files.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-10)

Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)**The TRP/TMP EIS should identify and protect ORVs outside of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor boundary.**

“What happens to the values and land outside of the river corridor boundary?”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-30)

“Protect river values both inside and outside the corridor.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-7)

The National Park Service should describe the size of river segments in the Draft ORV Report.

“ORV Draft: description of segments should address size of Tuolumne Meadows area. – entire Lyell Fork drainage. – eastern park boundary to Tuolumne Meadows (Dana Fork).”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-37)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include a “Commercial ORV” that identifies services provided in the park.

“‘Commercial ORV’ Provision services (food, lodging, etc.) including Glen Aulin: quality of the visitor experience, relationship between services in the park and those offered in the gateways, fuel and repair services, public protection services, fee administration (wait times at gates, park passes, benefit of passes when visitors still end up waiting), emergency services and impacts it has on neighbors, effects of helicopters...”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-59)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include “panorama views from domes” as part of the Scenic ORV.

“ORVs: panoramic views from domes.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-60)

The National Park Service has accurately identified the ORVs for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“I totally agree with the report which found that Tuolumne has Outstandingly Remarkable Values.”
(Individual, Mountain View, CA, Comment #137-8)

“I appreciate your attention in the ORV report to human history, routes, structures, sites, and natural features like Soda Spring in this part of the park.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-4)

“High water quality (TDS and microorganisms) is correctly one of the ORV for the river in the source tributaries and main stem.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-49)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include air quality near cascades and waterfalls as an ORV of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“I believe that air quality should be looked at again as a potential Outstandingly Remarkable Value for at least Segment 3 and Segment 4 (I am not as familiar with Segment 5 or 6). I believe that the air quality is directly related to the river where there are cascades and waterfalls. Just as waves at the beach create positive ions in the air, I believe that the cascades and waterfalls do the same thing along the river corridor. I have read that these positive ions are believed to make people feel better and more relaxed or rejuvenated. I think this is one of the “unseen” experiences that draw people to the Tuolumne River. Anyone who has stood next to the cascades or waterfalls would probably agree that the air feels different next to them than ¼ mile away.”
(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-15)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify climbing and camping as recreational ORVs of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“The climbing opportunities found at Tuolumne Meadows are rare in quality with regards to high quality alpine granite rock climbing in an untrammelled wilderness setting. Tuolumne’s unique attributes attract visitors from around the world as can be attested to by a brief visit to the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. Similarly, the unique wilderness camping found in the Tuolumne Meadows area is rare and popular to international visitors. As such, recreational climbing and camping at Tuolumne are both activities consistent with the standard set out in the NPS’s 2006 Draft ORV Report, and the NPS should elevate its protection of these recreational ORVs when it identifies the proper scope for the Tuolumne River Plan.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-35)

“The Outstanding Remarkable Values we find there: Access to Unique Settings of Ice, Snow, Rock, and Water. A very significant ORV relating to the river and meadow regions is the special quality of the granite found in its domes and cliffs. Whereas Yosemite Valley is remarkable for its long, high-quality crack systems, the Tuolumne River and Meadows regions are equally notable for their soaring domes of exceptionally high-quality granite featuring large crystalline knobs, in-cut edges on eroded pockets in the glacier polish, and steep faces with safe, low-angle “walk-off” descents.”

(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-1)

“The Access Fund supports all types of climbing, from urban sport climbing to pristine alpine wilderness mountaineering, including climbing experiences in protected environments such as mandated by the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA) and the Wilderness Act. We also believe that these special environments are entirely appropriate for compatible recreational uses. Indeed, NPS policies support activities (like climbing, picnicking and camping) that promote a “direct association with park resources.” [1] Accordingly, the Access Fund supports the protections required by the WSRA and Wilderness Act as well as NPS planning and management decisions that provide and enhance climbing and camping opportunities.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-1)

The National Park Service should revise the Historic ORV description to more accurately depict the significance of the Soda Springs Complex.

“Please rewrite the final phrase of ORV 3e. Historic, page 16 of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Draft ORV Report to read “...include the Soda Springs Complex (Soda Springs and enclosure, Parsons Memorial Lodge [a National Historic Landmark], McCauley Cabin, Bruin Baffle, the bridge on the river below) where significant gatherings influenced the creation of Yosemite National Park, early conservation activism, and national environmental legislation.” As written in the draft, it sounds like significant gatherings occurred within the “Soda Springs Enclosure,” which is not correct. Also, the entire Soda Springs Complex needs to be included within this statement.”

(Individual, La Crescenta, CA, Comment #271-19)

The National Park Service should include John Muir’s observations of the varied views from Mt. Dana and Mt. Lyell in the Draft ORV Report.

“One ORV of this area that is not mentioned is the varied, spectacular and long views in ORV 1f. and 2f. from the source peaks of Mt Dana and Mt Lyell. John Muir expressed them well (ibid, 1988 printing, p 159-63). I recommend you include his observations in your introductory section if not in 1f. and 2f.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-2)

The National Park Service should address the environmental and economic costs and benefits of closing Tioga Road in the winter opening Tioga Road earlier in the spring as part of the Historic ORV description.

“Another ORV in 3e. Historic, is that the highway, which is busy in summer, is closed to vehicle traffic from the first substantial snow usually in November to about June 1 in years of normal snowfall. Only a few ski, snowshoe, and animal tracks are seen there in winter. Discuss the road closure staying that way as well as the economic pressures and environmental and economic costs of opening earlier.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-3)

The National Park Service should review statutory authority to reaffirm or refine Draft ORV descriptions.

“Review 5(a) ORV determinations and descriptions. Reaffirm and refine if required. The Draft ORV plan is a good start.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-38)

The National Park Service should include a summary of ORVs generated from the public, as well as a list of river values identified for lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

“Would inclusion of a list, table or summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values that will be generated from answers to some of the questions asked be helpful? These are the values called for in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and some of those are listed in the river study and EIS of 1979. The Draft ORV paper handed out

at workshops is a good start. Should a separate list of values be shown for the portion of the river administered by the BLM?"

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-133)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify Tuolumne Meadows, Dana Meadows, and the meadows along the Lyell fork as one of the most extensive subalpine meadow/wetland complexes in the Sierra Nevada.

"Habitat Values Tuolumne Meadows, Dana Meadows, and the meadows along the Lyell Fork comprise one of the most extensive subalpine meadow / wetland complexes in the Sierra Nevada. These meadows support a wide variety of plant and animal species, including special status species. Recognizing that balance is needed when planning for visitor access will be critical to maintaining these important habitat areas."

(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-5)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe the Lyell and McClure glaciers as last two remaining glaciers in Yosemite.

"Tuolumne Meadows is also the largest sub-alpine meadow in the Sierra Nevada with the last two remaining glaciers in Yosemite at or near the Tuolumne River's headwaters: Lyell and McClure Glaciers."

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-10)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify the lack of human presence in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor during the winter months as an unusual feature.

"Would you include as an unusual feature of this river that there are no or two winter residents in or near these designated segments in the park from the time of road closure in fall until snow is cleared from Highway 120 in late May or June?"

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-20)

Boundaries

The TRP/TMP EIS should clearly describe beginning and end points of river segments.

"Describe end-points of segments; Fork itself is not clean (Dana Fork goes beyond park boundary). Not clear right now; if cover both will need a congressional designation (artful wording)."

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-42)

"Each segment of the river should be precisely defined so as to create a clear beginning and end of the segment e.g. from - to, i.e. entire Lyell Fork drainage to Dana Fork confluence; Dana Fork from eastern park boundary to Tuolumne Meadows; Tuolumne Meadows from Dana Fork and Tuolumne River confluence to Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne; Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne from Tuolumne Meadows to Hetch Hetchy reservoir. Clean up the issue with a proper designation of the headwater drainage of the Dana Fork."

(Individual, Groveland, Comment #319-6)

"Which tributaries are to be identified as "sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell" (see footnote) that will be included in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River? Where and at what elevation do they have their origins? Would the National Park Service accept suggestions?"

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-23)

The TRP/TMP EIS should extend the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor boundaries to include the watershed.

"Extending boundaries to watershed is not in the act; but is a good idea."

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-43)

The TRP/TMP EIS should clarify whether areas outside of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor will be included in implementation plans.

“Would those areas not within the legal corridor need to be included in implementation plan? Those areas may not need an implementation plan because it will be addressed in the CMP.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-44)

The TRP/TMP EIS should establish a Wild and Scenic River corridor boundary that is based on hydrologic and geomorphologic attributes.

“We recommend that the National Park Service consider a river boundary based on the Tuolumne River’s hydrologic and geomorphologic attributes. This would likely require widening the boundary beyond an arbitrary measurement (i.e., ¼ mile on each side of the high water mark) in order to protect sensitive river-related ecological features such as meadows and wetlands.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-9)

The TRP/TMP EIS should establish a general half-mile Wild and Scenic River corridor boundary.

“Boundaries of segments pose a problem here. It is suggested that you take a new look at how they are drawn or located and where the headwaters are located. Among the choices seem to be setting the boundary a general half mile distance from the river high water mark, by survey with meets and bounds using local landmarks, by GPS, or by quarter sections where section lines are available. We don’t advocate any one, but the law says you must establish boundaries. See W&S reference Guide.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-90)

The TRP/TMP EIS should clearly define the origin of the Dana Fork.

“A serious oversight is now apparent in the 1979 Draft and Final “Tuolumne Wild & Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement”. “Alternate A” from the original studies, as shown in Figure 2 of the ORV Report (p 4) does not agree with the law.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-5)

“I suggest you consider one of the “sources on Mount Dana” as the tiny lake at approximately 11,200 feet elevation and the tributary from it located about 0.75 mile west of Mt Dana summit. The stream named Dana Fork ending at 11,680-foot elevation below the saddle between Mt Dana and Mt Gibbs (on the Mt Dana, CA 1994 topo) might be one of the less desirable “sources on Mt Dana” since it partly drains Mt Gibbs also. If you adopt this idea, address the wisdom of classifying this tributary from its source on Mt Dana to its confluence with Parker Pass Creek as wild since it is more than ¼ mile from Highway 120, is all in wilderness, and is easily identifiable on the ground.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-7)

“The Dana Fork is shown incorrectly starting at Tioga Pass instead of between Mt. Dana and Mt. Gibbs. My conversation at the meeting with park representatives revealed that the legislation intended the designated segment to be the Dana Fork, however it also referred to maps which incorrectly showed the Tioga Pass fork.”

(Individual, Comment #201-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider including the unnamed tributary of the Dana Fork originating near Tioga Pass as a source tributary of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“At the same time you correct the Alternate A map for the source on Mt Dana, I propose that the unnamed tributary of Dana Fork originating in Dana Meadows near the Tioga Pass Entrance Station that is shown in the “Alternate A” map and on Tioga Pass, CA 1994 topo be recognized as an unnamed, unmeasured (i.e. adding no miles to the W&S river) source tributary in scenic classification for the purpose of letting visitors who pass that way see one of the ‘sources on Mount Dana.’”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-8)

“Will the Park Service use the words of the Act as stated above and in the footnote, “as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled ‘Alternate A’” in the Act, or a combination of the two in identifying the tributaries which Congress designated? For interpretive purposes, would the park consider the fork originating in Dana Meadow as one of the ‘...sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell...’?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-24)

“I think the best solution is to designate both forks [Dana Fork and Tioga Pass Fork] as Wild and Scenic. The Dana Fork would be wild, is in the wilderness, and is little-affected by the designation. The Tioga Pass fork would be scenic, is along the road, and would benefit by the designation.”
(Individual, Comment #201-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should produce a Wild and Scenic River corridor boundary map that amends the Yosemite 1980 General Management Plan.

“It is my opinion that you may correct the number of miles of designated river in YNP in your CMP, you may specifically depict the river segments from their “sources on Mount Dana” and must produce a final boundary map for the river in YNP where the CMP and/or TM Plan goals for the designated river amend the GMP. Now, I understand that this CMP will itself be an amendment to the GMP of 1980. I believe you must make the corrections to the map that the specific law wording requires.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-6)

The TRP/TMP EIS should reiterate statutory authority to finalize Wild and Scenic River segmentation, classification, and boundary determinations.

“Review 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary “determinations.” Reiterate statutory 5(a) segmentation, classification, and boundary status defining “interim” status before post-designation segmentation, classification, and boundary decisions. Review statutory authority to undertake this review and determination. Develop decision-making process, approach, philosophy, criteria to guide review and decisions to make these determinations, and for any subsequent review of these determinations.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-21)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify boundaries and classifications of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor in ‘Wild’, ‘Scenic’, and ‘Recreational’ segments, both inside and outside the park boundary.

“How wide will the river corridor be in wild, scenic and recreational zones inside and outside Yosemite Wilderness? (The interagency W&S reference guide notes that most rivers have flexible boundaries to accommodate specific features, river values [and we would argue, management objectives]).”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-26)

“Is there a need to draw river corridor lines and name segments as wild classification within designated wilderness areas, especially near Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp? Is there a need to identify river corridor boundaries and name classified segments as wild, scenic...”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-104)

“What is being done to preserve and protect the river downstream (outside of the park)?”
(Individual, Sebastopol, CA, Comment #273-6)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe the method of how Wild and Scenic River corridor boundaries are drawn.

“Will river corridor boundaries be drawn by the current method of smooth lines one-quarter mile back from the stream bank, indefinite section lines, or survey lines using physical terrain features?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-27)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify the benefits, drawbacks, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requirements for designating river segments in the non-Wilderness portion of Tuolumne Meadows.

“What are the benefits, drawbacks, and Wild and Scenic Act requirements to designate segments in non-wilderness portions of the Tuolumne River in Tuolumne Meadows? (The interagency W&S reference guide notes that most rivers have flexible boundaries to accommodate specific features, river values [and we would argue, management objectives]).”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-28)

The National Park Service should add Wild and Scenic River segment boundaries to park topographic maps.

“Should Wild and Scenic River segment zones be added to topo maps covering the Park?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-120)

Classifications

The TRP/TMP EIS should classify the Dana Fork as “Wild” rather than “Scenic.”

“Include the Dana Fork as a wild segment (change from Scenic designation).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-11)

“I would like to see as much of the Tuolumne River as possible designated as “wild.” Specifically, the section of the Dana Fork that is undeveloped but designated as “scenic” should be shifted to “wild” status.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-23)

“Can river segments designated as wild cross into non-wilderness parts of the park? For example, could this idea apply along Dana Fork?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-25)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider the reclassification of segments below O’Shaughnessy Dam.

“Discuss the advantages of managing the river corridor from the Wilderness boundary below Hetch Hetchy to the park boundary as a wild area with no new trails and no major trail improvements. This rugged, steep area is one of the few low elevation wild places in the park. The primitive, steep Poopenaut Valley trail may be the only passable trail access to this stretch of the TR in the park.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-66)

“After visiting Hetch Hetchy Reservoir again, 2 months ago, I would like to see the Valley below the Dam included as Wild and Scenic in the Plan.”

(Individual, Lincoln, CA, Comment #207-2)

Wilderness Management

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE TRP/TMP TO THE WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN, SEE 'PLANNING - WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN', PAGE 19.

Management Direction

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify any conflicts between Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River designations in the park.

"Is there conflict between Wilderness designation and Wild and Scenic River designation in the park?"
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-76)

The TRP/TMP EIS should recognize Tuolumne Meadows as a gateway to Wilderness.

"Gateway to Wilderness like no place else on earth - need to keep it that way."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-35)

"What would I like to see protected? The sense of Tuolumne Meadows as "rustic outpost" and jumping-off place to the interior wild lands."
(Individual, Nevada City, CA, Comment #214-7)

"Tuolumne feels like "a trailhead, like a jumping off point, a portal to adventure.""
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-68)

The National Park Service should consider Tuolumne Meadows a wilderness area.

"Tuolumne should be wilderness, so we might as well keep it as close to that as possible."
(Individual, Comment #64-3)

"Protect/enhance wilderness in Tuolumne Meadows. Tuolumne Meadows is a contrast to the valley, as the valley isn't as wild."
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-12)

"Keep this a wilderness area. People come for the experience of not being in a highly civilized and modernized area."
(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-6)

The National Park Service should set standards for development in Wilderness areas.

"I believe we have already failed immensely in doing so by building roads and constructing houses, buildings, tram tours, but we still have the opportunity to do our best in restoring nature to its natural way of being and because we are designed to do that I think we should. There are no places protected so much in that no human can enter or no roads could eventually be built so we should do our best with what we have here to make a fraction of the world a true wilderness area. I vote to most importantly set some kind of standard saying that development or constructing new buildings, expanding civilization, commercialism, stores, cars, people are not what wilderness is meant for."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #307-2)

"Within designated wilderness, commercial enterprises must be limited to the extent that is truly necessary. (Reference: Wilderness Act of 1964)."
(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-7)

"I would like the area to remain a wilderness - not multiple hotels, mini malls, and highly developed (or "civilized")."

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #209-12)

Visitor Use

FOR WILDERNESS CONCERNS RELATING TO STOCK USE, SEE 'STOCK USE – WILDERNESS', PAGE 207.

The National Park Service should provide more information about Wilderness ethics and etiquette.

"And this brings up cell phone ethics and etiquette in wilderness—something to discuss—and other education components that need to be woven into the plan: how to more clearly and consistently communicate to the public and staff how to be in this place, how to move (or not) through the fragile meadows; issues like pets, bikes, wildlife; recreation like kite-flying, softball, frisbee, boating/rafting—all, in my mind, intrusive and inappropriate recreational activities in a national park wilderness, a wild and scenic river, and sensitive high country meadows."

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-11)

"If the visitor understands they are going to a wilderness area and can adapt their usage to the wilderness area then fine."

(Individual, Comment #187-8)

"More education on how to act in sensitive areas/wilderness. Certain user groups are not getting the information, especially day-users. Trails through meadows – educate people on not creating new ones."

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-65)

The National Park Service should develop a new approach for informing visitors about human waste disposal in Wilderness areas.

"When obtaining our permit we were informed that the new process for eliminating in the wilderness is to pack out your soiled toilet paper. Our observation was that most people are eliminating 20-30 feet from their campsite and digging a hole about 2 inches deep and leaving poop and toilet paper where they did their business. This is often the location where the next backpacker is looking to set up their campsite. Perhaps a new approach is needed in training the backpacker or hiker where and how to eliminate, because what you're saying isn't working."

(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #197-3)

"Doggie bags" & instructions on human waste disposal at the urban-wilderness interface of every trailhead."

(Individual, Martinez, CA, Comment #65-1)

The National Park Service should allow visitors to camp less than four miles from developed areas.

"Presently backpacking and camping within 4 miles of developed areas is prohibited. Consider relaxing the 4 mile requirement for seniors or those persons unable to walk that far in one day. We backpack with two family members in their 80s and they have difficulty hiking more than 3 miles a day. They do not like to travel by horse. The 4 mile restriction means we cannot go to the Young Lakes and Mount Conness area."

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-12)

"Backcountry Use: Re-examine "no camping" zone restrictions in the Tuolumne Meadows Area. There is currently a four-mile "no camping" corridor along Tioga Road in the Tuolumne Meadows area. This arbitrary and needless restriction should be replaced with a narrower (e.g. one-mile) corridor, together with site specific closures of particularly vulnerable or heavily impacted areas."

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-24)

The TRP/TMP EIS should implement monitoring of and controls on wilderness camping.

“Use and overuse of trails and campsites along Lyell Canyon. A new, increased level of monitoring and control of usage in this sensitive area should be undertaken IMMEDIATELY – if not sooner.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-22)

“It would be nice to see more camping controls put on the cathedral lakes area to lessen the footprint.”
(Individual, Comment #6-2)

Wilderness Trailhead Quota System

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify the environmental and social impacts of the Wilderness Permit System on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“What success or problems are there from the wilderness permit use and stock presence on environmental and social impacts in the river corridor?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-78)

The National Park Service should recognize that the Yosemite Wilderness Trailhead Quota System is working well.

“There needs to be management of the #of folks allowed in the backcountry; my experience has been that a good job is being done in this area. The trailhead bear boxes and other trailhead services seem to be more or less adequate.”
(Individual, Dunedin, FL, Comment #171-6)

“I like the quota system for back country permits. I think this system works very well.”
(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-18)

“The currently existing trail quotas strike a good balance between preservation and accessibility.”
(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #163-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should revise Yosemite’s Wilderness Trailhead Quota System to limit day-users within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Revise the trailhead quota system to include day users and limit the number to assure the river is not adversely impacted.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-5)

The National Park Service should consider a backcountry permit system for rock climbers.

“...backcountry permit (or something similar) for climbers with signing an agreement of respecting nature, not setting extra bolts, etc.”
(Individual, Washington DC, Comment #358-4)

“[Incorporate] permits for rock climbers.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-49)

Hetch Hetchy

Consolidation of Planning Documents

The National Park Service should produce a combined plan for Tuolumne Meadows and Hetch Hetchy, similar to the Yosemite Valley Plan.

“Is there a need for a Tuolumne Meadows Plan or a Hetch Hetchy Plan similar to the Yosemite Valley Plan in addition to this management plan, or can they all be combined in this plan?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-117)

Inclusion in Wild and Scenic River Management Planning

The National Park Service should identify the Hetch Hetchy Valley as an ORV of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Furthermore, the Hetch Hetchy Valley is an outstandingly remarkable value of the Tuolumne River. The purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is preservation of selective rivers possessing outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values in free-flowing condition and protecting such rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. And, being as the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is preservation of rivers possessing outstanding scenic and historic qualities, the section of the Tuolumne River through the Hetch Hetchy Valley, one of four glacially-carved valleys in California, should be included in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River designation. The Hetch Hetchy Valley also has many other outstandingly remarkable values including a flat valley floor with expanses of meadows and forests, tall waterfalls that vary from misty to thundering, meandering river, and vertical granite walls with heights in excess of 1,000 feet.” In addition, Hetch Hetchy is at the transition from foothills to montane habitats thus provides habitat to a larger number of plant and wildlife species than Yosemite.” Thus, a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley should be considered as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Tuolumne River management plan.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-9)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the O’Shaughnessy Dam.

“It also concerns me that in your "Participant Guide" you state that Hetch Hetchy/O’Shaughnessy Dam will not be addressed as part of the Tuolumne River Plan. I understand that the mere existence of the reservoir excludes that section from being federally designated as wild and scenic, however there is no denying that it is within the Tuolumne river watershed and activities at the reservoir affect both the down- and upstream watershed. Obviously there is no way for the NPS to know what the outcome of the Dam relicensing / reservoir planning will be, but your statement about excluding it from the planning process makes me feel that you are avoiding it due to political ramifications. This saddens me, Yosemite has always been a leader, from the establishment of a park system, to fire management and wilderness management. I feel you should take a proactive role in watershed restoration especially since this is such a good example of how human activities have adversely affected what would have been part of this "wild" area. Decisions and changes at the dam are going to happen whether or not the park takes an official stance on them. Bare minimum, integrating large public works projects such as this with our wilderness/watersheds and ecosystems need to be addressed to manage the system as a whole.”
(Individual, Truckee, CA, Comment #106-2)

“Please include the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir portion of the river within the TRP. Even though it is not included within the wild and scenic portion of the river, it is nonetheless a dynamic segment within Yosemite National Park and both upstream and downstream from river elements (segments) that are within the plan's scope.”
(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #319-3)

“Our members regularly utilize the Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne River and will be directly affected by the forthcoming Plan as it will allow for changes in the way that the River is managed. Its members will be directly affected by the forthcoming Management Plan in that a decision by the NPS without considering the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and O'Shaughnessy Dam will diminish visitors'/members' ability to experience the Tuolumne River and Yosemite National Park (Yosemite) in its natural state, thereby reducing visitor enjoyment.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts, upstream and downstream, from the presence of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the O'Shaughnessy Dam.

“While the Wild and Scenic management zone understandably does not take in the areas upslope from Hetch Hetchy reservoir, how day use and overnight backpacking is managed in that area directly affects wilderness values, wildlife, and other values upstream and downstream from those areas. That should be considered. We suggest that the Park include the recreational trail system extending into the Hetch Hetchy parking area, trailhead, etc. as part of the management consideration needed for managing the overall river corridor.”
(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #251-3)

“The effects of the operation of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir on the river in Poopenaut Valley should be thoroughly studied. Park resources in this area should have the highest level of protection and changes in reservoir operation should be made as necessary to protect these resources. The City of San Francisco should pay for the studies and scientists independent of the city should make recommendations based on the studies. These recommendations should be followed, even if they include changes in flow patterns, provisions for sediment bypass, provisions for water temperature control, or even complete removal of the dam and reservoir. As other studies have shown, funding is the only obstacle to removing the dam while providing the same amount of water and power to the city of San Francisco. If dam removal would benefit the resources in Sections 5 and 6 of the Wild and Scenic River, it should be made public so that an informed debate on the issue can take place.”
(Individual, Comment #201-8)

“Tell us if migration of wildlife along the designated river corridor is interrupted by the presence of the dam, reservoir and project works.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-51)

The National Park Service should develop a rigorous ecological monitoring program to inform the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's flow schedule and provide information to direct future restoration.

“The Trust is specifically concerned about the possible degradation of River Segments 5 and 6 over the past two decades. We are also concerned about the apparent lack of ecological monitoring of this stretch of River below O'Shaughnessy Dam. We recommend a rigorous ecological monitoring program be developed for River Segments 5 and 6 as part of the Tuolumne River Plan that will better inform the SFPUC's flow schedule and provide information that can direct future restoration efforts.”
(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-5)

“Is stream release in summer and winter from O'Shaughnessy Dam adequate for fish, wildlife and stream invertebrates in that reach.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-97)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address downstream silt migration caused by the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

“1996 caused turbidity issues for river.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-28)

“Silt migration at Hetch Hetchy should be addressed in plan (some ends up in Groveland). Almost all silt is diverted into canyon tunnel and ends up in Priest Reservoir.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-34)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe the impact of the Canyon Tunnel Right-of-Way at O’Shaughnessy Dam.

“How does the Canyon tunnel ROW impact the designated river corridor by its 1391 cubic feet per second capacity? What other impacts does this ROW have on the river corridor?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-63)

Removal of O’Shaughnessy Dam and Restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley

The TRP should analyze impacts related to the proposal to raise O’Shaughnessy Dam.

“Effects of raising dam – impacts need to be addressed in plan.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-33)

“Evaluate the impacts of the recent suggestion by Richard Sklar, President of SFPUC to raise Hetch Hetchy Reservoir into the designated river corridor upstream and surrounding park, and proceed with actions that seem to be required under Section 7 of PL 90-542, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of October 2, 1968.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-54)

“San Francisco Public Utility president recently requested and increase in size of the O’Shaughnessy Dam. The NPS should consider impacts of that proposal in this plan.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-15)

The National Park Service should not allow the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to raise or lower the height of O’Shaughnessy Dam, or to build other dams on sections of river within the park.

“Probably can't remove Hetch Hetchy Dam but don't let them raise or lower it or build other dams on the river within the park and wild river section outside the park...As a compromise to removing the dam would be to charge SF for the use of the water and put that into the parks operating fund.”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-20)

The National Park Service should lower the height of O’Shaughnessy Dam to gain ¼ mile of river.

“What about lowering Hetch Hetchy level and gain another ¼ mile of river?”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-32)

The National Park Service should consider removing O’Shaughnessy Dam and restoring natural flow to the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Keep the river wild and scenic and remove O’Shaughnessy Dam.”

(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #305-14)

“Ultimately, I’d like to see the Tuolumne River run Wild and Scenic through the entire park by removing the O’Shaughnessy Dam and restoring Hetch Hetchy.”

(Individual, Sebastopol, CA, Comment #409-4)

“Removal of the O’Shaughnessy Dam would return the natural flow of the Tuolumne River and add a valuable Outstandingly Remarkable Value thus enhancing the river’s quality as a Wild and Scenic River.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should analyze potential impacts to the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River of removing the O’Shaughnessy Dam.

“Moreover, consideration of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and O’Shaughnessy Dam should be part of the Tuolumne Management Plan as a step toward a federal O’Shaughnessy Dam removal analysis. ... NPS should begin consideration of Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration as part of the Tuolumne Management Plan because the Tuolumne River will receive the main impact of dam removal.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-10)

“The Tuolumne River drains approximately 428,115 acres of northern Yosemite and flows into the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir where water is diverted through Canyon Tunnel to the Kirkwood Powerhouse. Water not diverted continues downstream in the Tuolumne River Channel. Removal of the O’Shaughnessy Dam would restore the character and downstream ecological functions of the Tuolumne River and enable the 8-mile stretch encompassing the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir to be added to the Wild and Scenic River. Therefore, the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and O’Shaughnessy Dam should be considered as part of the Tuolumne Management Plan because either the status quo or removal of the Dam will impact the Tuolumne River. Creating a management plan for the Tuolumne River without considering the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir or O’Shaughnessy Dam ignores a vital part of what makes the Tuolumne River exceptionally scenic, recreational, and historic.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-5)

“Evaluate the impact of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel diversion on the river above and below that impoundment and what changes and impacts would be expected if O’Shaughnessy Dam were removed and a partly free flowing stream passed through that valley.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-131)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the technical feasibility of restoring the Hetch Hetchy Valley.

“IV. Restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley is Technically Feasible. Over a dozen technical studies have been conducted in the past two decades relating to the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley. In the late 1980s, the Federal and State governments released a series of reports in response to a request from then-Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel. In recent years, four additional reports have been released, two from advocacy groups and two masters’ theses. These studies varied widely in their focus, methodologies, and conclusions. In an effort to establish a consistent basis for evaluating the existing literature, DWR and DPR released a report in July, 2006 which consolidated and assessed the information and analyses developed in the earlier reports... RtE agrees with DWR/DPRs conclusions regarding the feasibility of this effort, and our own review of the available literature strongly suggests that Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration is technically feasible and worthy of additional study. RtE urges NPS to take the initiative toward recovering this natural wonder by evaluating Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration options as part of the Management Plan, in accordance with its legal obligations as described in Sections 11 and I11 of this letter. The technical challenges of restoring natural flow to the Tuolumne River fall into four broad categories: dam removal, ecosystem restoration, water supply replacement, and power capacity replacement. The following paragraphs summarize the relevant project components, and discuss the technical feasibility of each.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-12)

“The possibility of restoration of this section of the Tuolumne River should be considered for all Tuolumne River management plans.”
(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-6)

“RtE concludes that the total project cost is simply unknown at this time, and this underscores the need for further study by NPS and others into the feasibility of the restoration effort [of Hetch Hetchy Valley]. Further, the monetary costs of implementing this project should be weighed against the substantial benefits that would be realized by restoring natural flows to Tuolumne River and recovering the natural beauty of Hetch Hetchy Valley, as discussed in the next section.”

(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-19)

The National Park Service should consider impacts to water supply and energy shortages related to the restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley.

“Any plan to restore the [Hetch Hetchy] valley must ensure continuity and quality of San Francisco's water supply.”

(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-16)

“..[I]n the context of the energy shortages experienced by the state in recent years, a plan for restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley should include provisions for replacing as much of this lost power supply as possible.”

(Environmental Organization, Comment #317-17)

The National Park Service should inventory Pate and Poopenaut Valleys to gain an understanding of the potential ecological conditions of a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley.

“If San Francisco should choose to relocate their reservoir storage away from Hetch Hetchy Valley, what ecological impacts would that have on the river above and below there? Can an inventory and population census of major life forms at Pate Valley and at Poopenaut Valley be done to allow drawing inferences as to what Hetch Hetchy Valley would be like? What is the biology of each valley (insects, birds and their migration patterns, mammals and their migration patterns, and microbiology, lichen composition and growth rates, tree inventory and growth rates, grass, flowers and other small plant inventory and growth rate, non native plants; etc.), the geomorphology, fluvial morphology, ichthyology (species inventory and relative and population census--number and age of species, and if brown trout and other non native species are present) in either valley? Can any conclusions be drawn about impact of human use today on each valley, and a rough guess at number of humans using each? Is there any difference in water quality, oxygen content or temperature at the two valleys? Are any differences caused by the presence of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and the diversion from the river, differences in flow at each valley or other differences that can be identified between the two valleys?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-87)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe the process for incorporating and managing a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley into the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“There needs to be some acknowledgment that, at such time as the Hetch Hetchy segment of the River becomes free-flowing again, there will be a process to incorporate that portion of the River into the Comprehensive Management Plan. Just as the back country in Yosemite was managed as Wilderness prior to the formal Wilderness designation in 1984, a newly liberated Tuolumne River could be managed as Wild and Scenic (and/or as Wilderness) even though it may not have been formally designated.”

(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-3)

“I understand the reason that the Hetch Hetchy reservoir is not included in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River CMP; however, I believe it is only a matter of time until the reservoir is drained. Thus, it is appropriate to consider the following questions: If the Hetch Hetchy segment becomes a free-flowing river again, what will be the process used by the NPS to revise the Tuolumne River Comprehensive Management Plan to include the Hetch Hetchy segment? What are the impacts of the reservoir on the biota above and below the reservoir? What policies would guide the NPS regarding restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley (reservoir segment)?”

(Individual, Comment #293-1)

The National Park Service should refer to the area as Hetch Hetchy Valley.

“All NPS personnel should refer to the precious mountain temple as “Hetch Hetchy Valley” to show it proper respect.”

(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-30)

Protection of Cultural Resources

The National Park Service should avoid the restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley because the reservoir protects the ancestral land of American Indians.

“Hetch Hetchy was a beautiful place before the non-Indians arrived. Our people lived there for centuries. The Hetch Hetchy area will never be restored to the look of the pre-dammed era. The water behind the dam has changed the landscape forever. There will be water scars that can’t be erased. The granite walls of the Hetch Hetchy have forever been ruined and can’t be restored to their previous beauty. The silt that has washed into the reservoir has filled up the area. Our ancestors land is safe with the water in the reservoir. Let it alone.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #220-5)

Agency Collaboration and Management

The National Park Service should develop a collaborative approach for determining flow schedules from O’Shaughnessy Dam that would best protect and enhance ORVs.

“For River Segments 5 and 6, the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Outstandingly Remarkable Values Draft Report identifies the ORVs as Hydrologic, Geologic, Biologic, Prehistoric and American Indian Cultural, Historic, Scenic, and Recreational. In developing the Tuolumne River Plan, we recommend that Yosemite National Park investigate the relationship of the flow regime below O’Shaughnessy to the protection of these identified ORVs. While it is the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and not Yosemite National Park who controls the releases from O’Shaughnessy, the Department of Interior has dictated and influenced the SFPUC’s flow schedule over time. A great opportunity exists with the development of the Tuolumne River Plan for a more collaborative approach for determining the flow schedule that would best protect and enhance these ORVs.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-7)

“[Address]: Downstream flows beyond O’Shaughnessy Dam to protect meadows and river processes in Poopenaut Valley.”

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-10)

“USFWS and SFPUC are now doing a study of the river release at O’Shaughnessy on the river corridor below. Can that work be coordinated with this river plan?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-136)

The National Park Service should collaborate with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to evaluate the impacts of proposed 2030 increased withdraws from the Tuolumne River.

“The SFPUC is also proposing to increase withdrawals from the Tuolumne by 2030 and the possible impacts of this diversion are currently being studied as part of a Program Environmental Impact Report. We encourage Yosemite National Park to collaborate on these studies to ensure protection of the ORVs.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-8)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the City of San Francisco's water supply.

“Interesting to see where SF water comes from, consider complexity of water issues.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-80)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe and consider the impact of Raker Act facilities and City of San Francisco non-Raker Act facilities within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Note the FERC non-jurisdictional status of Raker Act facilities located upstream and downstream of NPS Tuolumne W&S river corridor. Regulatory jurisdiction and authority of Federal agencies for Raker Act facilities should be described. Any San Francisco non-Raker Act facilities should be identified.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-15)

“Consider Raker Act facilities within or near potential and determined W&S river corridor and SF maintained NPS facilities.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-28)

“What impact does the presence of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Canyon Tunnel have on human use of the river corridor? Recommendations?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-35)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address how the National Park Service Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River sections will be impacted by economic, environmental, social and political decisions regarding Hetch Hetchy.

“There are economic, environmental, social, and political forces centered on Hetch Hetchy that can (and most likely will) have a significant impact upon the Tuolumne River sections being considered within the TRP.”
(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #319-4)

Recreation and Visitor Services

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts to recreation due to the closure of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir to public access, as well as time limitations imposed for the area.

“The elephant in the room is Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Because it is there does not mean it SHOULD be there. Its presence influences all the planning in a negative way. The public does not have use of the reservoir and does not even have access part of each day. A long hike in the area requires returning by a certain hour, or else! Either this is part of a national park open to all citizens or a San Francisco benefit program. Let's start looking at the elephant instead of pretending it isn't there.”
(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-1)

The National Park Service should construct a Visitor Center at Hetch Hetchy.

“VC at heliport at Hetch Hetchy is needed – geol/sociological, etc. – like Mono Lake VC.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-12)

“Visitor Center at Hetch Hetchy (at least in summer). All other major visitation areas have a visitor center.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-29)

“Proposed Hetch Hetchy Visitor Center. Yosemite's precious Second Fiddle possesses a diverse and, in many instances, unique richness. I am confident that most knowledgeable people would wholeheartedly agree that a comprehensive visitor center is long, long overdue.”
(Individual, Fresno, CA, Comment #343-5)

The National Park Service should provide interpretive signs around the Hetch Hetchy area.

“Interpretive signs around Hetch Hetchy.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-5)

The National Park Service should provide shuttle bus service to the Hetch Hetchy area.

“Needs to be shuttles/transportation to the Hetch Hetchy area, even if it's seasonal. Might take some of the heat off the valley. Great place for hiking, fishing, etc.”

(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-47)

The TRP/TMP EIS should protect wildlife habitat downstream of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir by maintaining few visitor services there.

“Leave the area downstream of Hetch Hetchy (1 mile and west) completely wild, without any trail or enticement to bring hordes of users into that totally wild – key wildlife area.”

(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-1)

Natural Resources

Existing Conditions

The TRP/TMP EIS should address resource degradation as a result of visitor use throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“It is a fragile area that I have seen gradually being loved to death.”
(Individual, Morgan Hill, CA, Comment #191-1)

“I have been visiting this area for over thirty years and have observed major degradation to the trails, meadows and river banks. The overall usage of this area has exponentially increased and the resulting impacts are very disturbing.”
(Individual, Bend, OR, Comment #242-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe the existing environment in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor as being in good condition.

“The air was clear, the sounds were all natural & the river & lakes were pristine.”
(Individual, Seal Beach, CA, Comment #105-2)

“The current environment is quite good.”
(Individual, New York, NY, Comment #168-4)

“Tuolumne Meadows area seems to be in good shape, overall. A recent walk/hike down the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River showed a fairly good condition.”
(Individual, Lincoln, CA, Comment #208-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe past and proposed corrective actions to reduce impacts in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Describe corrective actions that have been used in the past to reduce impacts on meadows. Are more corrective actions needed in the river corridor and in TM?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-89)

The National Park Service should recognize the diversity of important resources within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Exhilarated by environment and experience clean air/water, clear water in rivers, fresh untouched snow during winter, early greening of meadows, herds of deer, badgers/wolverines, critters, voles.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-36)

“The Tuolumne area is of course unique in the world in the scope and variety of its topography, geology, and natural beauty.”
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-2)

“All that granite. Flowers, Mt peaks, lakes, the river-and the view of Lumbert Dome across the river. Very old trees, U shaped valleys, Old unmaintained trails, cross country route finding.”
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #304-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess impacts to resources if facilities were to be expanded.

“Can campgrounds and support facilities be expanded without endangering the meadows and river? How much more use can we display without hurting these resources?”

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #209-4)

The National Park Service should address the vulnerability of wet meadow areas.

“The low lying and marsh like qualities of the meadows make it a very vulnerable habitat. With such vulnerability and immediate access from the road, any designated trails have the ability/potential to become rutted paths in a relative short period of time.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #21-3)

“Meadow conditions along the river will vary depending on different parts of the season. During early, moist conditions the meadows are wet & vulnerable, as the season moves on & water levels are lower, granite sand beaches are nice to fish and spend the day at. Most of these sites can be accessed by trails. It's good to keep the meadow traffic to a minimum - like the one going out to Parsons Lodge.”

(Individual, Watsonville, CA, Comment #99-6)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts to meadow ecosystems by roads and trails.

“Fracturing of meadow ecosystem due to trails and road. (Large ecosystem fragmented into smaller areas). The NPS should avoid major construction in the subalpine and alpine zones because Tuolumne has a hard time recovering from damage.”

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-31)

“My main concern is any major construction changes that will occur as a result of future plans. The subalpine and alpine zones are very sensitive to impact and slow to recover. Though we have improved our ability to do small scale restoration of plant communities there are many areas in Tuolumne that have not fully recovered from past damage. 1. The old Sierra Club parking lot at Soda Springs- This highly visited and visible area has not recovered at all since it was last used over 30 something years ago. Recovery was hampered by horse rangers using the area for riding practice- an activity that was only halted in the summer of 2005. 2. The old Tioga Rd. in Dana Meadows. Last used in the late 30's the road is still clearly visible. 3. Old campsites around soda springs and old car tracks are still visible even though non-campground camping ended in the 40's.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-1)

Impact Topics Considered

The TRP/TMP EIS should evaluate impacts to the entire ecosystem of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River watershed.

“This delicate ecosystem can be harmed by minor changes that haven't showed their full effect. During impact assessment every identifiable component should be studied within the ecosystem from algae, bacteria, frogs to the largest mammals and birds.”

(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #10-2)

“Want the entire watershed (as it relates to river) evaluated for resource conservation.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, CA, Comment #145-51)

“Ecosystem approach to looking at river/broader evaluation is very appreciated.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-29)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider the effects of climate change and global warming on park resources.

“Provide for scientific research on the affects of global warming on the flora and fauna and snowmelt/river runoff. This research is worth funding.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #318-3)

“Please consider the effects of climate change and global warming on the meadows and river.”

(Individual, Santa Cruz, CA, Comment #14-2)

“Unless we consider global warming, we will not have a river to protect. The NPS can show that global warming is affecting the park by observation, obvious. Swings in weather patterns over the years.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-40)

The TRP/TMP EIS should evaluate the effects of the National Park Service presence within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“As an example of environmental stewardship, parks must consider the effects of their presence on the land.”

(Conservation Organization, Modesto, CA, Comment #12-1)

The National Park Service should inventory existing species and populations before conducting impact analyses.

“Species list and rough population censuses are needed before any building is done in the larger TM area to allow factual check on impact projections and mitigation measures.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-41)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify impacts from fishing on native fish and amphibians.

“What negative and positive impacts does fishing have on the native strains of trout and other native fish, and on other aquatic life and amphibians?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-108)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify impacts on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor related to monitoring studies of the Lyell Glacier.

“Do Lyell Glacier monitoring studies have positive, negative or no impacts on the Tuolumne River corridor?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-27)

Management Direction

The National Park Service should preserve Tuolumne in its current condition.

“Please leave the meadows and the river the way they are. Please do not change anything.”

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #41-1)

“I would just ask that you preserve this beautiful gem of nature for the future generations.”

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #100-1)

“So in your Tuolumne plan, please avoid the use of words such as “improve”, “benefit”, and “implement”. Tuolumne does not need to “be made better” but rather preserved and maintained in its ideal state.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #29-5)

The National Park Service should strive to keep the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows as wild and pristine as possible.

“[W]ith respect to the Tuolumne River and the Tuolumne Meadows, I think every effort in your planning for these two areas should be made to keep them as pristine as possible.”

(Individual, La Crescenta, CA, Comment #252-1)

“Keep it as wild as much as possible. The less man-made stuff we can place into this environment, the better.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-144)

“Keep it Wild... Keep it Simple... Keep it Small... Keep it Natural... Don't spoil the magic of Tuolumne!”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #181-1)

The National Park Service should protect the Dana and Lyell Forks from development.

“Please consider and take into concern Dana and Lyell Fork, those watersheds need to be protected from development.”
(Individual, Cera, CA, Comment #364-1)

The National Park Service should ensure better monitoring of contractor compliance with environmental stipulations during TRP/TMP implementation.

“After working for some, and observing other contractors, I believe that there needs to be better monitoring and compliance with environmental stipulations of contracts. (toughen up with park policy for TM river plan and TM plan implementation).”
(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #10-5)

The National Park Service should provide for the protection of biological diversity and ecologic integrity within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Protect wildlife, meadow and river health, and the ecology.”
(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-2)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following important natural values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: High levels of preserved biological diversity, protected from encroachment by non-native species...”
(Recreational Organization, CA, Comment #299-7)

“I'm aware of how fragile a landscape this high alpine meadow is, but NPS has instituted a system at Tuolumne Meadows that seems to work. Sure there's some tweaking, but it functions well and rightly on this land and it seems sustainable to me.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #309-2)

The National Park Service should accept change within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and reconsider the need to re-establish “historical conditions.”

“Reconsider need to re-establish “historic conditions”. Accept change in nature – let it run its course. Let river take its course too (floodplains, riparian vegetation)”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-20)

The National Park Service should ban hunting, trapping, new roads, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles, prescribed burns and the use of toxic chemicals.

“I THINK THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE TOTALLY BANNED IN THIS AREA: 1. HUNTING; 2. TRAPPING; 3. NEW ROADS; 4. ALL SNOWMOBILES AND ORVS; 5. ALL PRESCRIBED BURNING WHICH RELEASES PARTICULATE MATTER (WHICH IS NOT SMOKE) WHICH TRAVELS THOUSANDS OF MILES AND CAUSES HEART ATTACKS, STROKES, PNEUMONIA, ALLERGIES, ASTHMA AND LUNG CANCER; 6. USE OF TOXIC CHEMICALS.”
(Individual, Comment #4-2)

The National Park Service should use soil decompaction methods in heavily impacted areas.

“Restore heavily-impacted areas by decompacting soil, replanting and reseeding, using volunteer labor where possible. Since this is not a designated wilderness area, active maintenance of the landscape is desirable and should be legally permissible.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-7)

The National Park Service should avoid any ground-disturbing activities.

“Non-disturbance -no digging/no disturbance of ground: Construction (roads, sewers, building site), anywhere the earth is disturbed.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-24)

Wildlife

The National Park Service should protect wildlife and preserve its habitat.

“Protect: Animals’ habitats.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-6)

“What I would LIKE TO SEE PROTECTED are the wild things that inhabit the area: The Bear, the deer/elk, the raccoons, the many species or birds, etc.”

(Individual, Comment #133-7)

“Preserve habitats of native plants and animals.”

(Individual, Nevada City, CA, Comment #214-8)

The National Park Service should preserve the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows as a wildlife migration corridor.

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following important natural values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Ability of these sub-alpine regions to serve as a crucial haven for species migrations caused by climate changes.”

(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-10)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider all impacts to sensitive wildlife and include a Wildlife Habitat Relationship analysis.

“Consider all impacts to sensitive wildlife in devising the EIS Alternatives. Conduct at minimum Wildlife Habitat Relations analysis and assess impacts to all park sensitive species, including meadow, aquatic, lentic, and forest, and rock habitat.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #283-10)

The National Park Service should conduct an extensive baseline inventory of wildlife species within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Efforts during the last few years have brought about a better knowledge of Tuolumne flora and plant ecosystems, but there is still very little known about invertebrate life. There needs to be an extensive cataloguing of species before any plans are finalized. In the Soda Springs area there is a wingless crane fly that was collected in the 1930's that I believe is found nowhere else. What undiscovered species are there and could they possibly be affected by projects? Birds also need to be thoroughly studies. We have a fair idea of species that are found here, but what are the population dynamics and are any species being adversely affected by increased visitor use?”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-8)

“There is need for a census of species and their seasonal abundance of each at key sites seasonally along the entire Wild and Scenic River corridor in the park and on BLM managed land?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-129)

The National Park Service should avoid conducting studies that harm wildlife.

“Stop studies that hurt wildlife (trapping bears, tagging squirrels). Observe vs. trapping.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-38)

The National Park Service should protect fish habitat in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Protect fish habitat and access for fishing.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-33)

Riparian and Aquatic Vegetation**The National Park Service should consider how an increase in vegetation along meadows and creeks makes fishing less accessible.**

“Love to go fishing there, but the “vegetation has just taken over up there in both the meadow and the creek.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-53)

The National Park Service should avoid leaving fallen trees in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“At one time some genius actually wanted to leave all of the fallen trees in the river. And they did for about 3 years. Give me a break.”
(Individual, Comment #139-11)

The National Park Service should clarify if there are baseline inventories on lichen to inform impacts analysis for the TRP/TMP EIS.

“Are there lichen baseline inventories in river segments from Mt Dana and Mt Lyell to the park boundary? If not how could those be done and used in planning and management?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-112)

“If no lichen base line studies have been done, they should be done now to assure that pollution of all kinds does not impact sensitive species in the river zone in the future.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-118)

Upland Plant Communities**The National Park Service should protect wildflowers behind the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.**

“Wildflowers behind TM lodge employee housing: educate and hang-out. Places for employees – these are public use areas/not entertainment lilies/orchids (maybe boardwalks)...”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-17)

“Please consider protecting the wildflowers along the river behind the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge employee housing. These are some of the finest wildflowers in the area (lilies, orchids, giant lupine, sierra onion, larkspur, columbine, corn lily). The employees are hanging swings and hammocks and setting up altars etc, in this very sensitive area.”
(Individual, Santa Cruz, CA, Comment #14-3)

Exotic Species

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING EXOTIC SPECIES, SEE ‘STOCK USE – MITIGATING IMPACTS OF STOCK’, PAGE 210.

Non-Native Wildlife Species

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess the impacts of non-native fish and potential impacts from their removal.

“Are native and non-native fish populations monitored in the river corridor? If not, should they be? Have cutthroat trout been removed from Delaney Cr as planned in the GMP? Are there non-native fish in the Tuolumne River and in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir that should be controlled and removed because of impacts on native fish species in the river, and on other native animal species in the river and river corridor?• Are there non-native animals and amphibians species in the river and river corridor that are impacting native species?• Are there non-native plants in the Tuolumne River corridor that need to be controlled? If so, what method of control is wise? Are there invasive non-native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need to be removed from the river corridor to protect native species?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-107)

“I understand that brook trout are non-native to the watershed above Hetch-Hetchy. If so, put together a plan to remove them (no-limit fishing, gill netting, etc.) like Sequoia/Kings Canyon.”

(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-10)

“I ask that you fully consider in both the CMP and TM Plan the impacts both positive and negative of removal of trout on one hand and continuing the no-stock approaches that I understand now exists on the other. A third option would be elimination of trout from upper reaches that are above natural barriers. The removal idea must include Hetch Hetchy Reservoir since it definitely supports non-native trout species. Also, please explore the possibility that birds, other animals or Native Americans could have transported trout upstream since the last glaciers receded.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-1)

Non-Native Plant Species

The National Park Service should identify and remove exotic plant species.

“Fight aggressively exotic plants.”

(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-17)

“Remove exotic vegetation, using volunteer labor wherever possible. Use environmentally compatible methods, including hand applied herbicides.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-5)

“Are grasses in TM predominately native or introduced? If introduced, I’d favor moving toward more native species.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-39)

The National Park Service should re-consider their approach to eradicating non-native plant species to avoid any negative impacts to other species.

“Reconsider approach to non-native species eradication because it has an effect on other species – causes damage to ecosystem that have re-established around these areas naturally.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-18)

The National Park Service should recognize the threat of increasing European dandelion populations in Tuolumne Meadows over the last few years.

“The European dandelion has appeared in ones or twos Tuolumne’s meadows during the last few decades, but within the last three years it has been found growing in large numbers. This is alarming because there are so few non-natives that survive well at this elevation.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-2)

Special-Status Species

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify what special-status species are present in the corridor.

“Are there rare, threatened or endangered native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that need care and attention in the river corridor? What can be done to improve their habitat? Are there native wildlife, amphibians, fish, birds or plants that are missing from the river corridor that could be reintroduced?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-83)

“Rare wildlife species within the river corridor should be clearly identified; a best-available-science baseline description of their status should be provided; and the range of alternative actions should include at least one alternative that would reduce human impacts to the most at-risk species through various steps recommended by Park specialists.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte CA, Comment #251-7)

The National Park Service should consider the re-introduction of extinct or endangered species.

“Will we consider the re-introduction of extinct or endangered species?”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-64)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider that upstream impacts affect rare plants downstream.

“Rare plants along the whole corridor. Some have such a short growing season that it is extremely difficult to study them in one summer. Please consider that impact upstream impacts all plants down river. Let’s not wait until we find out that they are already gone to protect them.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-96)

The National Park Service should provide a high level of protection to the mountain yellow-legged frog and other at risk amphibians.

“Give high protection to at-risk amphibians.”

(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-3)

“Protection of the frogs and the food chain are a couple things I would include in my definition of protection for Yosemite National Park.”

(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #219-1)

“I support all efforts to protect the mountain yellow-legged frogs and increase their populations to healthy levels.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #245-6)

The National Park Service should consider the impacts of pesticide drift on amphibians.

“Studies (by Roland Knapp) showing the negative impact of pesticide drift on Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs should be used to target upwind application areas and limit offsite effects.”

(Individual, Comment #201-10)

Geology

The TRP/TMP EIS should recognize the river’s geologic role in shaping Tuolumne Meadows and the surrounding landscape.

“The river is also notable geologically for its role in shaping this area's incredible landscape, whether as spring flood, summer flow, or during glacial periods as a river of ice. The glacially smoothed domes are just a few of the many features that one sees in Tuolumne Meadows that are awe-inspiring!”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-5)

Water Resources

Hydrology and Floodplains

The National Park Service should preserve meadow habitat by improving hydrology in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Preserve Tuolumne Meadows as a meadow by hydrologic means...In his time, John Muir described Tuolumne Meadows as being green in August. Now the meadow is generally brown by late July, indicating that it has dried out substantially in the past century and a half. If the impressive viewscape and meadow habitat are to be preserved, hydrological work needs to be done to raise the water table in the meadow.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-1)

The National Park Service should exercise minimal erosion control along the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Exercise some minimal/unobtrusive erosion control on the river in the TM area.”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-21)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts associated with rain gauges and snow load cells along the river.

“Are existing rain gauges and snow load cells detrimental to the W&S river zone where they are located, to visitors or to wildlife? I am in favor of these devices where unobtrusive and I expect more of them to be needed in the future. A letter from the California Resources agency in the Final GMP EIS discusses the need for these and other matters of interest in TM (p113). I foresee that unobtrusive stream gauges will be needed should O’S Dam is removed.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-36)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address whether river flooding is a threat to any facilities.

“Is river flooding a threat to any facilities or structures? If so, can they be relocated or flood proofed?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-30)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include a description of vehicle and foot bridges over the river and their impact on hydrology.

“Is the highway bridge adequate for a natural river flow? The idea is to keep all the bridges from interfering with the hydrology. Can the river adequately pass the trail bridges in the Park? List the two vehicle bridges on this river and the eight or more trail bridges and their locations?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-67)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts associated with human activities in riparian areas.

“Is there on going assessment of the effect of human use on the riparian borders, especially in the vicinity of the campgrounds and lodge on both forks?”

(Individual, Sebastopol, CA, Comment #273-5)

“With respect to the watershed it seems that too many are "running amok" in the streams, doing damage unintentionally (& sometimes intentionally) Staff, rangers, et al. Cannot possibly keep up with all going on.”

(Individual, Pelham, NY, Comment #86-3)

“Stop shampooing hair in river (good luck).”

(Individual, Comment #396-4)

The National Park Service should restore natural hydrology to Tuolumne Meadows where flows are diverted by roads.

“Assure the Tioga Road has a permeable subgrade to allow subsurface waters to flow freely to the meadow.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-1)

“Work on providing culverts, more porous road bed material, or drainage channels under the Tioga Road to promote more natural drainage patterns and prevent a dry edge from expanding out towards the meadows.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-12)

“Remedy the effects of roads (Tioga, Soda Springs, Tuolumne Lodge) on drainage into the meadow. Remove unneeded road sections (e.g. Soda Springs). Install additional culverts.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-2)

The National Park Service should inspect Soda Springs regularly to ensure that the spring is not clogged.

“Finally, the Soda Springs should be inspected regularly to see that human activities, such as people putting rocks or wood down them, are not clogging the springs. It seems there is quite a bit less water coming out from them in recent years, especially the ones to the left of the entrance to the enclosure.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco CA, Comment #295-6)

The National Park Service should consider removing large log jams from the river.

“Remove some of the monster log jams?”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-19)

The National Park Service should consider building more lakes.

“Things that should be built: some more lakes.”

(Individual, Comment #75-13)

The National Park Service should avoid any development near riparian areas.

“Regarding the Tuolumne River Plan, I would only suggest that any activity such as development be kept at a distance from the river and riparian life be a constant concern.”

(Individual, Hoffman Estates, IL, Comment #268-1)

The National Park Service should consider the feasibility of altering the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River channel to raise the water table.

“Consider the feasibility of restoring/altering the river channel to raise the water table.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-3)

The National Park Service should consider using boulders between Stoneman Bridge and Housekeeping Camp to support the river bank in Yosemite Valley.

“I see that they want to repair the banks of the river between Stoneman Bridge (which was named after a friend's grandfather) and Housekeeping. Sounds good. Except that every year the spring thaw will wash it all away. You blame visitor use- NO NO NO! It is because you refuse to line the banks with boulders to support the banks and the tree.”

(Individual, Comment #139-9)

Water Quality

The National Park Service should consider the threat to upper Tuolumne water quality caused by people using pullouts instead of restrooms.

“When bathrooms stink many visitors just use pullouts for toilets. Check out some of these areas to witness how water quality on the upper Tuolumne is being threatened.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-6)

The TRP/TMP EIS should evaluate impacts to water quality if camping is permitted along the Dana Fork.

“Will resumption of overnight camping in Dana Meadow impact the water quality of the Wild and Scenic Dana Fork and any other designated tributary in that watershed after the water supply is relocated?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-56)

“Can overnight camping be resumed along the Dana Fork when the Dana Diversion Dam is no longer used for water supply?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-92)

The National Park Service should continue to protect and maintain high water quality in the Tuolumne River.

“Protection of the quality of the water in the Tuolumne River should continue to be a high priority.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-13)

“Currently, the Tuolumne River is characterized as having exceptional water quality, especially at the headwaters. The plans should focus on prioritizing maintaining this exceptional water quality both from an ecological perspective and for domestic water supply reasons. Maintaining high water quality standards throughout the state has increasingly become a struggle, and the plan should proactively analyze and address this issue.”

(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-3)

“Preserve water quality”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-3)

The National Park Service should improve water quality management in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“We would like to see watershed and water quality management improved—keeping water quality consistently high throughout the Tuolumne River corridor.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-12)

The National Park Service should address water quality at the waste water treatment facility in Tuolumne Meadows.

“The capacity and completeness of treatment at the TM waste treatment plant and disposal system are the main potential threat to water quality of the river.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-50)

The National Park Service should consider the use of storm water filters along roadway shoulders and parking areas near trailheads to protect water quality.

“Consider water quality improvements at some of the popular hiking trailheads. At several trailheads, vehicles park along the shoulders of the road (Highway 120) in very close proximity to wetlands and tributaries to the Tuolumne River. “Water Gardens” or storm drains with filter elements could be constructed to accept and filter stormwater runoff from parking areas that drain directly to streams and rivers.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-5)

The National Park Service should develop a comprehensive water education program about the importance of water quality and the impacts to water quality from human activities.

“Water Quality: Looks clean now, but people should be educated on how to keep the water clean by staying away from it, if they have to relieve themselves (i.e., packing out garbage).”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-5)

“Develop a comprehensive water education component that educates the public on the importance of water quality and the impacts of their actions while visiting Tuolumne (for example, correct sanitary procedures if away from restroom facilities). Water conservation should be a component of this education as many visitors are from the Bay Area and it is an opportunity to directly connect them to their water source.”

(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should analyze the impacts of vehicle and chemical waste on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Are there fuel, fuel additives lubricants, waste and domestic water treatment chemicals or other chemicals in the watershed that threaten the river and river corridor (e.g. from the service station or vehicles on the highway)? Is mitigation or prevention needed?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-33)

The TRP/TMP EIS should acknowledge California state water quality standards.

“In addition, your environmental document must acknowledge not only the State's specific water quality standards, but also the state/federal anti-degradation requirements. Significantly, the waters of Yosemite National Park are high quality waters that are eligible for designation as Outstanding National Resource Waters. The federal and State anti-degradation requirements clearly apply. Specifically, the National Park Service must comply with the California State Water Board's Resolution No. 68-16, which requires that existing high quality waters be fully protected, unless very specific formal findings are made. In this case, neither the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California State Water Resources Control Board, nor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ever made the overriding findings necessary to allow degradation of water quality from the High Sierra Camps or the commercial stock enterprises that operate within Yosemite.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-35)

Restoration

The National Park Service should recognize the importance of restoring ecosystems altered by human manipulation.

“If we destroy or affect the natural balance, it's up to us to fix it.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-21)

“If you do anything to destroy natural balance then we should repair/restore it. Reference to Lodgepole pine thinning along Tioga Road, prescribed fires/forest ecology.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-118)

“Anything we do to destroy natural balance, then it is important to do what we can to bring it back.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-147)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include a restoration plan for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“I suggest a recovery and restoration plan and program for the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows areas.”
(Individual, Minneapolis, MN, Comment #321-1)

The National Park Service should re-forest areas between Tuolumne and Dana Meadows that appear to be previously disturbed.

“Disturbances to forest between Tuolumne and Dana Meadows- There are several places along on the north side of the road where there are large open area with, what appears to be, pit mines. Why can't they be reforested?”
(Individual, Comment #147-9)

The National Park Service should restore meadows.

“I think that the meadows themselves need to be restored.”
(Individual, Colbalt, CT, Comment #193-7)

“As for the Tuolumne Meadows Plan, restore what needs restoration.”
(Individual, Hoffman Estates, IL, Comment #268-3)

“I would like to see heavily used parts of the meadow restored - ie across from the store.”
(Individual, Nevada City, CA, Comment #214-20)

The National Park Service should avoid restoration activities that degrade scenic ORVs in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

“No "restoration" goals should be interpreted as justifying the removal of bridges or basic campgrounds. More broadly, I discourage any "restoration" activities that would degrade the areas' outstandingly remarkable scenic values in order to advance a narrowly defined goal of native-species propagation. As an example of this: No healthy mature trees should be cut down.”
(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #287-3)

The National Park Service should develop sound methods to restore meadow areas that have been impacted by social trails.

“What areas should be targeted for restoration? Random trails across meadow areas or other inappropriate trails.”
(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-11)

“What areas should be targeted for restoration? I imagine the trails going across the meadows to the river and Parson's Lodge are of most concern for restoration. This trail is the most heavily used in the area - it is the first walk for our family when we arrive in the Meadows and our favorite at sunset. There are lots of paths across the meadow here and perhaps they should be marked more carefully. This seems to work in the Valley where people generally follow marked paths and where I have seen improvement in preserved meadow areas and river edges.”
(Individual, Elkton, OR, Comment #311-4)

“We need to understand why/how social trail are created. Is the cure worse than the ill?”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-240)

Tree Removal

The National Park Service should continue the removal of lodgepole pines to preserve the sub-alpine meadow and habitat it provides in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Remove encroaching lodgepole pines from the meadow. Both saplings and some larger trees should be cut and removed. In the forty years that I have visited Tuolumne Meadows, it has been obvious to me that pines have steadily encroached on to the meadow. If allowed to continue, this forestation will further dry the meadow, irreversibly converting it to a forested flat. Artificially removing trees in this non-wilderness area is well justified as a means of preserving this spectacular sub-alpine meadow and the habitat it provides.”
(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-4)

“If done with an eye to aesthetics, pruning and thinning to retain open vistas and prevent lodgepole pine encroachment is appropriate and will preserve ecological diversity.”
(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #424-7)

“The meadows should be retained as true meadows—that is, don’t let it become just another boring lodgepole forest. I know the policy is to let nature take its course but I believe the hand of man has influenced the area to the degree that intervention of forest succession should be done.”
(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-2)

The National Park Service should avoid removing lodgepole pines in Tuolumne Meadows.

“[W]e should not be preserving the meadow for the vista (i.e., Lodgepole Pine removal project).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-15)

“Minimal human intervention, such as plucking out the trees like they did this summer: attempting to intervene in tree growth patterns is folly.”
(Individual, Comment #216-9)

“The trees growing in the meadow should be allowed to grow.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #179-5)

The National Park Service should provide more information about why lodgepole pines are being removed in Tuolumne Meadows.

“[C]onfused about why we are cutting down all of the trees in the meadows.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-40)

“I observed some selective cutting of lodgepoles on the meadow this summer. I have noticed their spread and wondered why nature was not allowed to take its course. Perhaps public education is needed in these instances.”
(Individual, Comment #147-3)

“The lodgepole pine removal program is suspicious. Either fix the drainage problem caused by the road or accept global warming is screwing the meadows. Alternatively waste \$\$ and volunteers indefinitely.”
(Individual, Australia, Comment #443-1)

Wildfires/Use of Fire**The National Park Service should protect the natural fire and hydrologic regime in Tuolumne Meadows.**

“[Protect] The natural fire/hydrologic regime of the meadows.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-12)

“Let natural wildfire do its thing.”
(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-7)

Mitigating Impacts of Human Use

The National Park Service should prevent overuse or misuse of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Just say no to misusing or overusing this one resource.”

(Individual, Saratoga, CA, Comment #156-6)

The National Park Service should address human impacts to resources through interpretive programs and law enforcement.

“Water quality, meadow trampling and many other issues are real and need to be addressed. I think they can be, and a good interpretive program and vigorous (while sensitive) law enforcement will go a long way. Others will have more constructive suggestions than I can offer right now.”

(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-19)

“Protect flora, fauna and landscape from abuse through education and monitoring.”

(Individual, Nevada City, CA, Comment #214-10)

The National Park Service should implement a bus permit system to reduce trampling impacts on Tuolumne Meadows.

“Instead of flocks of sheep trampling fragile subalpine meadows, crowds of people now wander or cut across. Tour busloads dropped off at the visitor center parking lot, for instance, often fan out into the meadow. This is a recent phenomenon I have noticed in the last two to three years. Could bus permits have any control over this? It is great to have visitors explore the meadow, but the trampling impacts seem too big to make this acceptable.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-12)

Human/Wildlife Conflicts

The National Park Service should consider the number of bear incidents caused by packers and the High Sierra Camps.

“I also think that the concentration of use caused by commercial packers and the High Sierra Camps is a significant cause of bear problems in the back country. I personally have experienced many more bear incidents near these areas than in the remote back country where use is more evenly spread.”

(Individual, Cotati, CA, Comment #250-5)

The National Park Service should identify what steps are needed to reduce any human-wildlife conflicts.

“Are visitors to a broad TM region negatively impacted by wildlife, and vice versa? If so, what steps are needed to reduce conflict?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-33)

The National Park Service should study and reduce occurrences of road kill.

“Protect wildlife – people need to understand why they need to slow down... to protect wildlife and prevent road kill. Important educational opportunity. Need to tell people WHY it's not just a matter of law enforcement.”

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, CA, Comment #146-7)

“Further Efforts to Reduce the Incidence of Road kill. Road kill is a serious problem, not just for bears, but for many other species as well. CSERC asks that the Park continue to study and implement methods to reduce future occurrences of road kill along the Tuolumne Meadows road segment.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-11)

“Will any studies of road kill be conducted as part of this planning process? Bears are not the only species of concern with vehicle/wildlife incidents.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-12)

The National Park Service should continue their efforts to reduce negative wildlife incidents with a proper food storage policy.

“Keep up your efforts to protect the park’s bears. In past years, we have been surprised that campers weren’t given more explicit instructions about food storage and clean up. The instructions about food storage have gotten much better, but a lot of campers simply do not know how they should be washing their dishes. As unpleasant as it may be, it is important for rangers/employees to be vigilant about enforcing proper food storage. The positive reinforcement we received this year– in the form of a Thank You note at our campground – was a nice touch.”

(Individual, Comment #217-16)

“The bear management has done a great job educating and training people. Don’t relax the regulations, in fact enforce them more strictly.”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #282-6)

“Discuss bear management in this part of the park and discuss all additional ideas for bear management beyond what is presently used. We hear that a bear has found how to open one of the bear box latches in the YV. Should bear boxes be placed in back country camps and what other good methods are there of keeping bear away from food that people bring with them? Has bear management been successful in teaching them to stay away from people? What we want are wild bears that are not attracted to people.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-72)

The National Park Service should consider “bear only/human exclusion zones” along the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Bear Only/Human exclusion zones should be identified and established along critical regions of the river, allowing bears unlimited and undisturbed access to riparian resources. These should be part of a larger pattern of bear-only/human exclusion corridors with strictly limited human crossing paths.”

(Individual, Walnut Creek, CA, Comment #326-1)

Air Quality

Transported Pollutants

The National Park Service should acknowledge that the biggest threat to Yosemite National Park is the Central Valley's air quality.

"No UC Merced (biggest threat to YNP is the air quality of Central Valley)."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #117-30)

Management Direction

The National Park Service should protect air quality within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

"We feel the Plans should preserve the following important natural values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: High levels of air quality."
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-8)

"Preserve air quality. Tuolumne as a destination for PURE AIR...restorative, a place to get/be healthy."
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-14)

"Protect: Air quality."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should disclose the impacts of air pollution on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and provide measures to reduce and mitigate negative impacts.

"Is air pollution now damaging the Tuolumne River or its corridor? If so, how can these impacts be reduced or mitigated?"
(Conservation Organizations, Comment #298-49)

"The effects of air pollution, including greenhouse gases, on the river should be studied and disclosed. The sources of air pollution detrimental to the river should be cleaned up or shut down."
(Individual, Comment #201-9)

Park-generated Pollutants

The National Park Service should limit, regulate the timing of, or restrict campfires in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to protect air quality.

"Tuolumne Meadows Campground fire smoke is terrible- we should either limit the hours even more, or prohibit fires in Tuolumne Meadows."
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-68)

"Limit the number of fires allowed at night. The air pollution is very bad."
(Individual, Comment #134-17)

"Efforts to curtail campfires...regulate timing, fire rings, make this part of the entire ethic for how Tuolumne Meadows is managed."
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-11)

The National Park Service should encourage group campfires in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to reduce impacts to air quality from individual campfires and preserve the visitor experience.

“Aim: Reduce campfire smog. Rearrange fireplaces so 2 or 3 sites share a fire ring. Aside from making the air a little cleaner it would encourage socializing. It would be important that campers know about this when booking to ease issues of sharing wood, etc. Alternatively, ban open air campfires altogether. Perhaps a fire curfew for morning and evening fires?”

(Individual, Hillsborough, CA, Comment #444-2)

“Eliminate of limit (in term of days) individual campground fires – providing a group campground fire for the experience and getting to know your neighbor. By this the Air Quality would be more natural.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-194)

“I have noticed both in the Valley and in Tuolumne campgrounds that individual campground fires create smoky environmental air quality and take away from the quality of enjoyment of this beautiful natural environment. I think it could be a viable option to have a "group campground fire" where people can gather for the "fire" experience, get to know their neighbor, share stories, experiences thus preserving the wild experience and air quality. P.S. The backpackers campground past Vernal Falls does that and it as an enriching experience for all.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #25-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess if the number and types of vehicles in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor compromise air quality and consider measures to reduce these impacts.

“Does the number of cars, trucks and busses that pass through TM compromise air quality? If so, what can be changed? If there is a problem, would propane fuelled or fuel cell driven busses reduce the number of cars and trucks and also improve air quality?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-23)

“Are highway vehicle emissions a threat to air quality in the river zone or Tuolumne Meadows campground or employee housing?”

(Conservation Organizations, Comment #298-34)

“Do shuttle busses cause fewer or more air quality problems than cars in the river corridor? If more, what changes can be made to busses to reduce or mitigate this problem. In the larger picture, can impact by cars be reduced?”

(Conservation Organizations, Comment #298-58)

The National Park Service should provide discounts on park entrance fees to vehicles that produce fewer emissions.

“discounts on vehicles that produce less emissions.”

(Individual, Arcata, CA, Comment #73-2)

Effects of Fire Management

The National Park Service should continue with wildland fire management policies regardless of smoke impacts to air quality.

“Don't worry about air quality from fire; we have had good air quality from fire suppression for 50 years. Give the ecosystem its chance.”

(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #10-4)

Soundscapes

Transportation Noise

The National Park Service should recognize the importance of “natural quiet” in Tuolumne and the impacts caused by motorcycle noise.

“Why are some incredibly noisy models of motorcycles tolerated in our National Park? Throughout the park, the most consistently disturbing and disruptive noise pollution comes from a certain brand of motorcycle roaring by, usually in large groups out for a scenic ride. In my home I can barely hear any passing vehicles, even the large delivery trucks that constantly pass by... But some types of motorcycles rattle my windows! Hiking the rim of Yosemite Valley, you can barely hear any human sounds below... except the occasional siren and the roar of motorcycle groups filling the valley with their rumble. I have nothing against motorcycles, or their riders. Everyone is entitled to enjoy their national parks. But the super-loud motorcycles must be in violation of basic noise ordinances that many towns and cities have established.... and Yosemite is a “natural area” where natural processes and conditions are supposed to prevail. The NPS is required to protect the “natural quiet” of this national treasure, and all the species (including humans) that thrive in quiet natural places. BMW’s, Hondas, Suzukis, and many other brands of ‘bikes hum by just as fast, just as frequently, in groups just as large, but they produce far less noise... often as much or less noise pollution as the average family car.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #184-1)

“Illegal muffled vehicles (mostly Harleys) - It seems that there are more groups of Harley’s traveling Tioga Road . They seem to be the single greatest contributor to noise pollution. I realize everyone has rights. Isn’t there laws that can be enforced to reduce the noise from motorcycles?”

(Individual, Comment #147-8)

“Motorcycles roar up from Yosemite Valley and over Tioga Pass daily and fill the road corridor with a tremendous ear-shattering thunder that can be heard for miles into the wilderness. This noise exceeds not only NPS soundscape management standards but the requirements of the California Vehicle Code,[28] the Wilderness Act and the WSRA. To our knowledge, the park has made absolutely no effort to enforce the noise standards of any of these authorities; the Plan, however, may provide such an opportunity.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-31)

The National Park Service should seasonally restrict motorcycle access to Tuolumne Meadows to protect the natural soundscape for bird population health.

“The noise of loud motorcycles is such a problem for birds. How about: Make a season where loud vehicles (ie motorcycles & Harleys) are not allowed in the park! This would be spring into early summer so that birds and other animals relying on sound to find mates, defend territory, find young, determine hierarchy etc. can function! Please consider this before we lose species. It could be many seasons before we determine through research that the sound affects animals and then it could be too late!”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #419-1)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts to natural quiet caused by air traffic over Yosemite National Park and consideration should be given to limiting overflights.

“An issue of great concern to me that affects Tuolumne Meadows but is also a much larger problem is the intensity of air traffic over Yosemite Park. At this time, it is nearly impossible to experience the natural quiet of the high country due to the nearly constant roar of jets passing overhead. I realize this is a big issue but it would be appropriate for the draft EIS to address it.”

(Individual, San Anselmo, CA, Comment #195-5)

“...consideration should be given to limiting airplane and helicopter overflights, which disturb the natural quiet, the scenic vistas (vapor trails) and the natural darkness.”
(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #261-8)

“In the Aug 29 walk-around away from the highway, the only sounds I heard above human voice and afternoon breeze was a Harley, a commercial jet faintly at high altitude and a loud military jet at mid altitude. Probably not much can be done about street-legal Harleys, but in the CMP and TM Plan discuss the disturbing noise from military jets and the lesser disturbance from the commercial jet corridor over the park. Just as there are necessary military air zones where civilian aircraft must not go, there is need to have wilderness areas where military jets must not go. I have no quarrel with the need for emergency medical flights or sirens along the highway in the park.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-25)

The National Park Service should limit access of loud vehicles into the park.

“If your vehicle is obnoxiously loud (and many are intentionally customized to be just that), you can't drive into Yosemite. Require them at the entrance station to rev their engine, and take a simple decibel reading. If they are too loud, Sorry...”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #184-3)

“Excessively noisy vehicles detract significantly from the experience in Tuolumne Meadows as well as several miles into Designated Wilderness. Enjoying the meadow and climbing the myriad peaks make this a very unique area and a special place. Vehicles that are loud simply for the purpose of being loud have no place here.”
(Individual, San Rafael, CA, Comment #18-1)

Visitor Activity Noise

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess soundscape impacts caused by Recreational Vehicle (RV) generators.

“The NPS Should Assess Soundscape Impacts Caused by Motorcycles and RV Generators Loud noise from motorcycles and electric generators greatly diminishes the ability of climbers, campers and other visitors to enjoy the natural soundscape of YNP, particularly in the Tuolumne Meadows high country where such urban intrusions are especially inappropriate.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-30)

“Likewise, RV generators in the Tuolumne Meadows (and other campgrounds) regularly violate NPS and WSRA soundscape standards. Under YNP's camping regulations, RVs are allowed to run their generators from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This overly-generous period makes it impossible for tent campers to sleep late in the mornings or enjoy preparing and eating their dinners without disturbance. The Tuolumne Plan presents an excellent opportunity for the NPS to correct this long-standing deficiency in its campground management.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-32)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following important natural values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Natural soundscapes. Particularly damaging noises are those created by customized/compromised exhaust mufflers on motorcycles, and from the use of electrical generators in campgrounds. We feel these are particularly invasive and annoying urban soundscape noises, not appropriate for these regions, and should be sharply curtailed by park management policies. They instantly destroy the most valuable and treasured resource these regions offer to people—the restorative feeling of being surrounded by wilderness.”
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-5)

The National Park Service should enforce quiet hours in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“The campground needs to do a better job sharing of camping etiquette (people staying out of others sites, noise at night/quiet hours, etc).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-27)

“Quiet hours in the Campground need to be enforced.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-30)

“Campground should be peaceful, NO generators, quiet time after 10pm.”

(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #368-3)

The National Park Service should prohibit loud music in the Tuolumne Meadows

“Prohibit loud noise, such as amplified music, in campgrounds.”

(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-11)

“Stricter rules about noise would be good-no music audible outside your campsite (except quiet acoustic instruments you play yourself).”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #301-7)

“The maintenance crew partying near the Visitor Center creates an inappropriate kind of noise. Why should they be allowed to use amplified instruments and mikes? It can be heard throughout the meadow.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-33)

The TRP/TMP EIS should analyze and propose mitigation measures for human caused noise that violate California law, National Park Service policy, and Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness Act legislation.

“NPS policy strives to “preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the natural soundscapes of parks . . . [which] exist in the absence of human-caused sound.”[29] NPS policy also endeavors to “restore degraded soundscapes to the natural condition wherever possible, and will protect natural soundscapes from degradation due to noise (undesirable human-caused sound).”[30] Consistent with this direction, the 2006 Draft ORV Report seeks to protect the outstandingly remarkable values identified in the Tuolumne River management corridor, most of which is in designated Wilderness, that provides “outstanding opportunities for a diversity of experiences characterized by primitive, unconfined recreation in a landscape dominated by natural scenery and soundscapes.”[31]. Accordingly, in the plan the NPS should analyze and propose mitigation measures for loud motorcycle noise along Highway 120, RV generator noise in campgrounds and other noise sources that violate California law, NPS policies, and the mandates of the WSRA and the Wilderness Act.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-33)

Noise in National Park Service Housing Area

The National Park Service should relocate the cell tower out of the Tuolumne Meadows employee housing area to protect the soundscape.

“The cell tower fan intrudes into the soundscape, especially in winter. The winter rangers speak of it breaking the silence, and trans-Sierra skiers wonder what it is. I notice the fan in the summer, too, especially at night. From my cabin, I hear it rather than the river. For health and soundscape reasons, consider moving the tower to Gaylor Pit or removing it entirely.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-10)

Management Direction - Natural Sounds

The National Park Service should protect the quiet and natural sounds (i.e., wildlife, river, birds) that are part of the Tuolumne experience.

“What I love about the Tuolumne River/Meadows is the quietness of the experience. The only disturbing sounds one might encounter are the occasional snores of fellow tent campers in the always crowded campsites.”

(Individual, Escondido, CA, Comment #133-1)

“I like the quietness - not being able to hear the “sounds of civilization” while admiring the beauty.”

(Individual, Pelham, NY, Comment #87-4)

“If I listen closely in Tuolumne, I can hear the sounds that make the meadow area what it is – the scritch of chipmunks racing up the lodgepole pines, the whistling of a marmot family that noticed a coyote on the prowl, the magical gurgle of the Tuolumne River rushing over granite. As part of the Tuolumne soundscape research, this summer, I sat and simply listened for 8 hours – in 20, 30 and 60-minute chunks – marking the natural and human-made sounds I heard. The bird sounds were constant. Early in the year, the pewees called in the early morning and the killdeer, in the evening. In late summer, the crossbills raucously chattered in large groups, flying from tree to tree seeking their cones to crack...The meadow needs relief from the loudest sounds of humanity, so visitors can hear the natural sounds of a national park.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-16)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify acceptable levels of human-caused sound within the project area and propose specific actions to reduce noise levels.

“NPS planners should identify what levels of human-caused sound can be accepted within the Tuolumne management area and propose specific actions to reduce noise levels.[32] At a minimum, soundscape protection measures must include reducing motorcycle and RV generator noise to levels acceptable to other park visitors.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-33)

The National Park Service should enforce a noise ordinance to protect the natural soundscape of Yosemite National Park.

“There are quiet hours in campgrounds and housing facilities. There are standards of behavior for food storage. There are basic vehicle code rules that are simple and enforceable. Disturbing the peace is an established violation of the law in most jurisdictions. Could the NPS begin to enforce a simple noise ordinance?”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #184-2)

Scenic Resources

Scenic Vistas

The National Park Service should protect the beauty of Tuolumne Meadows.

“To me, Tuolumne sparkles – how light plays on water, peaks. You really bathe in that light.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-63)

“What I really like about Tuolumne Meadows is that it is really pretty, gorgeous rock formations, the trees are healthy. The water is amazing because of the current over the rocks. All the flowers everywhere gives this pretty place color. I also like how remote and open it is. Very pretty place.”
(Individual, Bellflower, CA, Comment #330-1)

“Nature’s beauty is displayed by the Tuolumne River and Meadows. This beauty should be nurtured and protected as a top priority. The best way to protect this beauty is to allow nature to take its course as much as possible, undisturbed by man’s design.”
(Individual, Temple City, CA, Comment #345-1)

The National Park Service should prioritize protection of the scenery in Yosemite National Park.

“Preservation of the scenery is the first imperative of the mission; facilities and services that aid enjoyment must defer to the preservation mission of the Park Service... In other words, Yosemite is providing scenery, and providing for the enjoyment of that scenery. If a facility or service is not related to the enjoyment of the scenery, it is forbidden.”
(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-5)

“Aesthetics are a huge element in a positive visitor experience. We have carnage on tv, in our cities and chaos in our lives at home. We come to Yosemite to get away from that depressing ugliness. Please look with an eye to enhancing the natural scene.”
(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #425-13)

The National Park Service should protect open landscapes and reduce visual impacts created by vehicles.

“Protect viewscales, e.g. open landscapes upon arrival and Tuolumne Meadows. Mitigate visual presence of cars and other vehicles.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-2)

“...parking is a deterrent (blocks some of the view).”
(Individual, Comment #68-5)

“The visual impacts of hundreds of vehicles on Tuolumne Meadows outstanding scenic quality is what we are trying to correct.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-7)

Night Sky

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify the effects to the night sky within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Even light pollution hurts the area.”
(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #209-13)

“In addition, the bright lights at the Tuolumne Store (and at the Tuolumne Stables) should be shut off (or toned down) at night, to preserve the darkness of the night sky.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-20)

“We believe that all park lighting should be shielded in ways to prevent “light pollution”, particularly in these regions. Motion-activated lighting should be used in all bathrooms and any other locations where lights need not be shining all night.”
(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #425-13)

The National Park Service should protect darkness and dark night skies.

“The sunsets are breathtaking and the dark night sky reminds me how our planet and all of us who live on this planet are part of a greater universe.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-9)

“Night-time darkness enhances the “rustic outpost” experience as do the simple visitor facilities presently available in Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Nevada City, CA, Comment #214-18)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following important natural values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Dark skies at night.”
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-6)

Cultural Resources

Archeological Resources

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider studies to identify archeological features in Tuolumne Meadows and throughout the entire Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Has a search been done for archeological sites, historical routes, habitation sites, and objects been done in the entire river corridor and in Tuolumne Meadows?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-128)

The National Park Service should restrict access to sensitive archeological sites within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

The supporting quote(s) to this concern statement have been omitted to protect location data for sensitive archeological sites.

The National Park Service should provide unrestricted access to archeological sites within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

The supporting quote(s) to this concern statement have been omitted to protect location data for sensitive archeological sites.

The National Park Service should protect all important cultural sites within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Protect 5,000 years of history before pre-contact.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-16)

“Any important cultural sites (eg Native American) should be preserved or protected if possible.”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #382-13)

Ethnographic Resources

The National Park Service should protect the traditional cultural resources of American Indian people within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and establish areas for the perpetuation of cultural practices.

“Protect/establish places for native peoples to work/live here/ceremonies.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-25)

“[Protect] Sacred sites: gathering sites (basket, medicine), food (fishing, deer), traditional travel between Hetch Hetchy and Mono Lake.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-23)

“Are there Native Americans sites, artifacts, food plants and basket-making plants gathering areas or trade route trails in the river corridor that need identification and protection? [NAME REMOVED] at the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk has expressed to one of the authors his interest in the tribe studying and regaining some control over ancestral sites along the river).”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-77)

The National Park Service should highlight traditional cultural areas to educate the public about indigenous people's relationship with the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Mark traditional cultural areas lending to greater understanding of indigenous people’s relationship with the area.”

(Individual, New York, NY, Comment #168-6)

The National Park Service should recognize and respect that the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor is the ancestral home to many American Indian nations and allow this history to guide management zoning in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“You are on the land of the Ahwahneecies of Yosemite--Paiutes. We want our land to stay natural and undisturbed. We will share the beauty of the land with all but will fight to prevent further destruction. The land is sacred to our people and should be treated with care. Our ancestors put things where they are for a reason. Leave their things alone. Leave those that are buried there alone. Our ancestors are pushing us to take care of our land and keep our traditional ways intact. We are to protect the land from the destruction by the non-Indians.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #220-4)

“Our people were here for thousands of years before the non-Indians and unless you are looking for the signs you don’t even know that we lived here because we respected the land.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #220-7)

“The Me-Wuk people lived here for centuries. The Mono and Piute people may have lived here and surely traveled through this area for trade. All these nations history, habitations, camp sites, food gathering practices, tool making, trading routes, stories and religious beliefs would add much to this section and would be a guide to management of the river zone and Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-2)

Historic Sites/Resources

The National Park Service should provide for the protection of historic resources within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Are there historic sites, artifacts, routes and river crossings used by miners, stock grazers, hunters or other resource harvesters in the river corridor? Likewise, are there any emigrant, trader or military use remnants in the corridor? An example of human activities might be at the soda spring area of Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-69)

“I would want the Sierra Club facilities (assuming nothing has been added in the last fifty years) to be protected as historical landmarks (buildings), and this includes Soda Springs and its little log enclosure.”

(Individual, Townsend, MT, Comment #32-3)

“Things that should be kept the same and maintained as they are for their historical and aesthetic importance: Visitor Center, employee housing, Parsons Lodge and the summer programs at Parsons Lodge, the wonderful bridge at Soda Springs and the twin bridges on the Lyell Fork, High Sierra Camps.”

(Individual, Comment #134-15)

The National Park Service should value and protect the architecture of permanent stone buildings in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor

“Please do not under-estimate the value of Architecture in the park. I would not like to see any new buildings added but I do believe that buildings like Parson’s Lodge and the Visitor’s Center are treasures and from an architectural standpoint, very appropriate for such a beautiful setting.”

(Individual, Santa Monica, CA, Comment #127-6)

“I like the permanent stone buildings and cabins.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-86)

The National Park Service should provide protection for the remains of the shelter at Soda Springs.

“Provide protection for the remains of the shelter at Soda Springs.”

(Individual, Comment #135-4)

The National Park Service should retain and protect historic structures in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Please also keep the tent cabins & store & lodge as they are now quite unique in America.”

(Individual, New Haven, CT, Comment #83-2)

“But the pack station and the High Sierra Camp should be protected because they are both historical and cannot be seen from the meadows themselves.”

(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #160-3)

“Historical structures protected (like the TM lodge). Maintain through historic preservation practices, they are getting dilapidated.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-31)

The National Park Service should consider converting the current ranger station in Tuolumne Meadows to a museum or public contact station.

“Consider using the present ranger station as a “ranger” or history museum or public contact station. I do not advocate removing the station as it is probably an historic structure and is an example of what many believe a ranger station should look like.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-10)

The National Park Service should provide for the protection of historic bridges within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“The bridges at the Sierra Club lodge, twin bridges and the road bridge should be retained and maintained as they are for their historical and aesthetic importance.”

(Individual, Comment #150-8)

“What do you love about the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows areas? First, bridges. These graceful, historic bridges demonstrably contribute to these areas' outstandingly remarkable scenic values. (Or in plainer terms, they make the landscape more beautiful.) These bridges also promote, and facilitate, nonmotorized transportation through Yosemite Park -- a highly desirable goal -- because many of them are reserved for pedestrians, cyclists, and wheelchair users. Please protect and preserve all existing bridges.”

(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #287-1)

The National Park Service should restore the bridge located below Parsons Memorial Lodge.

“Please, now that you have restored Parson's Lodge, McAuley Cabin & Soda Springs structure, restore the twin-peaked bridge that used to span the Tuolumne River just below Soda Springs. It was BEAUTIFUL and is sorely missed by those who remember it.”

(Individual, New Haven, CT, Comment #83-1)

“Restore the bridge that is below Parsons Memorial Lodge to it's original status with the width and cantilevered braces. The original piers are wide enough to make this very easy to attain.”

(Individual, Comment #135-1)

The National Park Service should rehabilitate the Soda Springs Bridge.

“Soda Springs bridge needs to be rehabilitated. It is falling apart.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #234-3)

The National Park Service should maintain and protect Parsons Memorial Lodge as a National Historic Landmark.

“Every year we visit Parsons Lodge and Soda Springs. Parsons Lodge is a historic landmark that helps tell the story of Tuolumne Meadows from John Muir to the present. We certainly hope and expect that Parsons Lodge will remain as long as Tuolumne Meadows exists.”
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #351-7)

“We love visiting the Parson’s Lodge and the old soda springs enclosure. Those visits have become a tradition for us.”
(Individual, Menlo Park, CA, Comment #165-3)

“[Keep] Parson's Lodge: I think people who might never walk more that 100 meters actually walk out to parson's lodge because it is a visible destination. And I'm all for encouraging people to get out there and hike.”
(Individual, Comment #215-15)

The National Park Service should address needed repairs to Parsons Memorial Lodge.

“Perform any repairs deemed necessary to Parsons Memorial Lodge. I understand that this must be in agreement with the Sierra Club.”
(Individual, Comment #135-11)

“Build a broken fitted stone stairway or steps up to Parsons Memorial Lodge like I have seen in other places in the Park.”
(Individual, Comment #135-10)

The National Park Service should protect the historic character of the current Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

“ Perhaps the current visitor center is old and distinctive enough to be considered “historic” but all other buildings should be on the chopping block, including the (Tuolumne Meadows) Lodge.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-10)

“The current Visitor Center is located in an old CCC dining mess hall, The building has a lot of historical character. A wood-burning stove is lighted almost every morning, giving the place a very warm cozy inviting feeling.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-14)

The National Park Service should renovate the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center in order to maintain consistent architecture throughout Tuolumne Meadows.

“Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center: The Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center building needs to be either completely rebuilt in a lodge-type building that compliments surrounding structures (such as the potential permanent store/grill) or expanded in a manner that is consistent with the architectural style of the existing structure. The Visitor Center’s limited educational and interpretative displays also need to be upgraded.”
(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-12)

Historic Districts/Landscapes

The National Park Service should maintain the cultural landscape of Tuolumne Meadows for public enjoyment.

“Maintain the cultural landscape where historic buildings and places are preserved, so people can enjoy them.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-8)

Visitor Experience

Existing Conditions

The National Park Service should describe and prioritize capital infrastructure in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor in order to develop alternatives that balance resource preservation and visitor experience.

“Please develop all overlays in considering alternatives and impacts that balance natural, cultural, and financial assets under the priority of the Organic and Wild and Scenic River Acts to protect and conserve for “nondestructive” recreation and enjoyment. Describe and analyze entire capital infrastructures (e.g. parking, transportation, drinking water distribution, wastewater treatment and collection, year-round accessibility vs. Current practice, visitor data collection, local and park revenue opportunities, emergency services, visitor information and education services, lodging/overnight services, food services, fuel and vehicle repair services, public protection, entrance fee administration, (throughput), park asset maintenance and upkeep, service excellence and revenue enhancement measures, etc.) Separate that which is essential for priority administration (protection, conservation, and preservation of natural and cultural resources vs. enjoyment and revenue generation).”
(Individual, Groveland, CA, Comment #319-7)

The National Park Service should recognize that visitors value a Tuolumne experience that is different from busy Yosemite Valley.

“I quickly found myself disenchanted with the Valley, the traffic, the insane congestion, the entire experience there is affected by the numbers of people the area tries to host in a short time (summer/spring) I now skip down to the Valley, take care of what I need to, and boogie back to the Meadows ASAP.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #22-2)

“The high country-front country experience of TM is a world apart of the hustle and hub-bub of the Valley.”
(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-1)

“The charm of the area is its “pristineness.” Yosemite Valley is a zoo.”
(Individual, Long Beach, CA, Comment #223-1)

The TRP/TMP EIS should maintain the uncrowded feeling in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Even though Tuolumne must be very popular it doesn’t ‘feel’ overcrowded – the campsite though larger is out of the way; the river, though accessible feels uncluttered.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-110)

“The things I love about the Tuolumne Meadows is the uncrowded nature of most of the area and the beauty and rock climbing and hiking/backpacking opportunities that exist.”
(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-1)

“Like Tuolumne because less crowded, beautiful, trails, backcountry, accessibility- has a different feel, more laid-back, less ‘downtown.’”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-49)

The National Park Service should maintain opportunities for inexpensive vacationing.

“People don’t bother me – people that don’t have a lot of money, can’t afford expensive vacation, this is about as great as it gets – for nothing.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-54)

The National Park Service should recognize the diversity of visitor experiences that are valued in Tuolumne.

“Tuolumne Meadows is a locale that brings people into contact with great natural beauty on the edge of wilderness without requiring expeditionary ambition on the part of those who want the experience. Under snow for eight months every year, yet sitting astride a major highway, Tuolumne is partly wild and partly a resort, an oasis of outdoor accessibility for many thousands of curious folks, many of whom use it as a staging area into genuine wilderness, and others who are content with brief forays into the meadows, not venturing very far from their automobiles.”

(Individual, San Anselmo, CA, Comment #274-1)

“I value Tuolumne Meadows as a center of trails in all directions and a place of enormous scenic beauty which all ages can enjoy as a source of revival of spirit and a reminder of a spectacular Sierra Nevada location that we are fortunate to share.”

(Individual, San Barbara, Comment #350-2)

“Tuolumne Meadows has the feeling of being a wilderness outpost of the park, and not as heavily visited an area as other parts of Yosemite. People can slow down and remember the essentials of living, breathing, relaxing. And the variety of trails with varying topography, offers so many different opportunities to challenge oneself or to just enjoy the day sitting along the Tuolumne River.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-8)

The National Park Service should recognize that development and people create negative impacts in Tuolumne Meadows.

“[What about TM do you dislike?] Lack of environmental concern, exhaust. [What about TM do you dislike?] Roads, noise, people, meadow damage, HSC, tour busses, DNC/NPS bureaucracy, Politics, The time it takes to do things, size of domestic fires.”

(Individual, Comment #457-2)

The National Park Service should consider the impact of rangers’ firearms on the visitor wilderness experience.

“Firearms invade wilderness experience – peace of mind is disrupted.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-11)

“Protect water by employing wilderness rangers to protect watershed and educate visitors with a smile and no firearm.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-9)

“(Law enforcement) contacts are intimidating – has to do with each individual person.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-12)

The National Park Service should consider ways of reducing unpleasant interactions between visitors and rangers.

“Campground host or ranger to visitor interaction should be minimized except for the component of bear and wildlife educational purposes (proper food storage for example). The current climate of being subject to interrogation by rangers for purposes other than wildlife and wild lands preservation is a detriment to the outdoor experience and would not be needed under a different paradigm.”

(Individual, Comment #115-6)

Tradition

The National Park Service should recognize that Tuolumne plays an important role in the lives of many visitors by serving as a traditional gathering place for families, friends and individuals.

“I have been visiting Tuolumne Meadows for the last 27 years (I am 29) on almost a yearly basis and I agree with the quote from John Muir that includes, “going to the mountains is going home.” I consider Yosemite, Tuolumne Meadows especially, as home. There is a special and unique culture that is palpable in T.M. I believe it stems from the quiet glory of the landscape and the spiritual connection of her visitors.”

(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #205-1)

“My husband and I truly love Tuolumne Meadows and the River. I first visited the Meadows in the early 1950's when we were students at Berkeley, newly married, and new to hiking. My husband had visited as a boy scout. We have introduced our grandson to the place in recent years, our fourth generation in Yosemite. We realize that crowds are a problem to the place, but I feel that the joys of the Meadows are still there. I know that protection is part of the Park responsibility, but please consider the human issues as well. The finest advocates for the Park come from visitors to T. Meadows.”

(Individual, Elkton, OR, Comment #311-11)

“In addition to the many people who have been coming back to Tuolumne Meadows for generations, I meet many new people and young families who are also starting to make this place a tradition to visit and camp. The place is loved by generations of people for a reason. Keep the rustic near wilderness feel of the place as much as possible. Though I do not doubt that some changes will bring improvements for this place, I feel that Tuolumne Meadows and the River feel timeless and that any changes should be reviewed and carefully contemplated.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-19)

The National Park Service should recognize that access to Tuolumne by children creates the next generation of constituents.

“Provide opportunities for kids and young people to experience outdoors and wilderness. They will be future protectors of this place. Build this constituency. If you build it and tell them about it, they will come. A place for kids to be excited about.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-17)

“American youth must have opportunities to fall in love with our natural resources so that they will be the future conservators of these lands so that they will be the future conservationists of these lands.”

(Individual, San Rafael, CA, Comment #92-3)

“My dream is to be able to continue to share this area with my children and grandchildren. Through hiking, backpacking and playing in the river, I hope to be able to teach them about conservation, minimum impact and respect of nature so that they can grow up feeling passionate and invested in saving this incredible, awe inspiring and special place!!!!”

(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-20)

Management Direction

The National Park Service should protect the quality and character of the wilderness experience in Tuolumne and safeguard the area's tangible sense of place.

“I understand there is interest in developing Tuolumne Meadows. Whatever happens, I very much hope that the summer camps quality and character of this place won't be lost. Essential to this quality and character is the fact that people have a experience which puts them up close to nature for the summer months only. It is vital that we all have the reminder that this is true wilderness, and that we as a species are guests of a place that we can't control.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #433-2)

“What I love about Tuolumne is that it is a place like no other in the world, with its own character and charm, history, and a beauty and spirit evident in each curve of the Tuolumne River, each granite slab, each rocky peak. This place is ethereally beautiful. From river-drenched low spots reflecting granite domes during the spring thaw, to pink shooting stars rising up out of the marshy meadow, to the great bowl of blue sky and stars stretching above, Tuolumne calls to the human spirit, regardless of who we are and where we come from. As we plan for Tuolumne’s future, I hope that we protect this area from further development and safeguard its vital and tangible sense of place.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-1)

“Tuolumne Meadows should be managed to provide Park visitors an opportunity to experience this iconic Sierra Nevada landscape in a rustic, natural setting rather than having the resort-campground facilities dominate their experience.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-3)

The National Park Service should acknowledge and protect opportunities for solitude in Tuolumne.

“[Protect] Ability to experience solitude.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-3)

“[What would you like to see protected?] The peace, quiet and solitude of Tuolumne. The valley might be a madhouse, but we can rely on the high country for an escape.”

(Individual, Comment #6-1)

“To me, Tuolumne Meadows is a place where I can have access to wilderness. Tuolumne is a place where I can find quiet, solitude, peace, relaxation, adventure and challenge.”

(Individual, Blacksburg, VA, Comment #192-2)

The National Park Service should acknowledge and protect the social atmosphere in Tuolumne Meadows.

“[Protect] General social scene – not just employees.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-8)

“[I love] All the people who care about the place.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-78)

“Tuolumne attracts a different kind of visitor than the Valley. Closer to the place, “freewheeling”, they may be more aware of how to care or the place. TUOLUMNE CULTURE.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-76)

The National Park Service should retain the seasonal/ephemeral Tuolumne experience.

“Retain the Seasonal/Ephemeral Nature of the Tuolumne Visitor Experience. What I really appreciate about Tuolumne Meadows is that the experience is of brief seasonal type. This is the greatest value of the Tuolumne Meadows experience - one which reminds me that this area is not impacted by visitor traffic (save the hardiest skiers relying on non-motorized access) in the winter and marginal spring and fall periods. Let the seasonal weather condition dictate the access to this area. This provides the visitor - myself - with the experience that humans, too, are seasonal migrants to the area. From this I learn and realize my own ephemeral nature on our planet, and learn to understand the natural limits of these environments. This is an important concept and cultural aspect to remind me of natural cycles, the inhospitable nature of the area in winter, and also serves to minimize impact to the fragile wetlands and hardy wildlife of the area during the non-summer period. Here, humans are seasonal visitors and should remain so.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #283-1)

“Part of this place’s uniqueness is its ephemeral quality – where we only visit a few months each year.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-21)

FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING SEASONAL ACCESS TO TUOLUMNE, SEE ‘VISITOR ACCESS’, PAGE 87.

The National Park Service should retain the Tuolumne visitor experience during the winter.

“Like knowing in winter-time there’s nothing there.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-24)

The National Park Service should ban smoking in the park.

“No smoking in entire park.”
(Individual, Comment #42-3)

The National Park Service should provide more activities for visitors.

“Bad things:...not many activities (more!!!)”
(Individual, Comment #75-9)

The National Park Service should provide opportunities for different types of visitors to experience and enjoy Yosemite.

“As a lodging owner in Yosemite, I meet daily with people who have had little experience with any “wilderness.” Often they are frightened: of curvy roads and unprotected drops, of animals, most of all, of space. They are at home with traffic, steel and concrete. But, if we don’t continue to help urbanites discover the wonders of the wilderness, we will find our Parks under worse attacks than have occurred the past few years.”
(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-8)

“Provide facilities/services so that everyone can get to experience Tuolumne/YNP – kids, different demographic, different people are comfortable with different experiences.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-47)

“I do think that the choices of day visiting, staying at the lodge, camping, hiking or backpacking should continue as they are. These options offer different people of different capabilities and interest to enjoy the area.”
(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-5)

The National Park Service should protect volunteer opportunities.

“Protect volunteer opportunities.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-5)

The National Park Service should consider and protect the privacy of visitors when collecting data from them.

“Do not impact the privacy of visitors, particularly related to data gathering that might involve them, their demographics, their destinations, etc. Need to know WHO the visitor is, but respecting rights to privacy.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-55)

Visitor Access

Resource Preservation and Visitor Access

The National Park Service should prioritize preservation of resources over visitor access.

"I DO NOT favor access over preservation. Where the two conflict, preservation should always prevail."
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-18)

"Please focus on environmental and wilderness protection first and recreation second. Within recreation, the Tuolumne Meadows area ought to focus on the wilderness experience."
(Individual, Madison, WI, Comment #339-1)

"Overall, our preference is to have the overwhelming bulk of the Tuolumne River corridor managed for biological, ecosystem values first. Then we accept the second priority focus for creating recreational enjoyment only that level of recreational use won't degrade the ecosystem values of the river... and then finally, commercial and gateway business interests should be considered. Unless the first two are sustainable, the value to the gateway communities won't last in the long term, anyway."
(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #251-9)

The National Park Service should prioritize visitor access over preservation of resources.

"It's a tightrope act between protection and accessibility but I tend to favor the public use of the parks, even if some areas are overused."
(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-7)

"Any time you have people come to a site there will always be some damage to the site. This is as we say "the cost of doing business". It is your job to find ways to reduce the impact on the site. Not as has been, and is currently the policy, to reduce the number of visitors."
(Individual, Comment #139-5)

"I just hope that whatever is decided will allow tourists like me (over 60) a chance to experience first hand the beauty of the area without creating limiting restrictions. I know that the numbers of visitors has increased and the damage to the park is great. There must be ways to help people visit without limiting accessibility."
(Individual, Comment #141-2)

The National Park Service should develop strategies to protect resources while providing for visitor access.

"Balance access with protection of the ecosystem."
(Individual, Mariposa Public scoping Meeting, Comment #119-34)

"Efforts to modify current conditions and activities in the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows area through this planning process must emphasize maintaining the highest level of resource protection possible while allowing a reasonable level of access for the public enjoyment of this great natural resource...There are a number of areas that need attention. Hopefully through this planning process both resource protections and visitor experience can be improved."
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-2)

"And the fact is, we should try to protect the ecosystems, watersheds, water and air quality, habitats that house endangered species, wild flowers, meadows, the food chain, and the VISITOR EXPERIENCE."
(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #219-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should emphasize low-impact use of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Continue to emphasize low-technology, low-impact use of the park lands and river.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-6)

“Things to preserve protect: - the river corridor - the wilderness experience along the river (low impact).”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #170-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should establish appropriate use areas within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Look at focused recreational areas that are appropriate to direct use. “Self discovery” might be better for other areas.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-69)

“One of the greatest assets to Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne River corridor are the various access points for visitors to enjoy. While we do not want to see those limited or removed, we feel it is necessary for the National Park Service to identify what recreational activities are appropriate for certain areas of the river and provide educational resources (literature, signage, more rangers) to inform the visitors of such practices.”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-13)

Maintain Visitor Access

FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS RELATING TO USER CAPACITY, SEE ‘USER CAPACITY’, PAGE 94.

The National Park Service should maintain full visitor access to the Tuolumne Meadows area.

“I would ask that you do everything in your power to make sure the meadows stay accessible to the public. This place has touched and changed my life forever and I just hope that everyone who wants to come here would have the chance to experience this.”
(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #100-2)

“Planning, as conceived within many government agencies interpreting Congressional mandates, is sometimes a code-word for reduced public access. I will be saddened if this happens in Tuolumne. Nothing works to form a love and reverence for the natural world like being in it. So, if anything, I hope the Park Service will act to help more people experience this magnificent stretch of Sierra territory, whether energetically hiking and climbing, or casually, taking advantage of modern transportation.”
(Individual, San Anselmo, CA, Comment #274-2)

“WHAT I WANT PROTECTED: The access for everyone that we now enjoy! Everyone from parents with little kids to my 84 year old mom (2 weeks ago) can come, stay and really be here for a little while. Some may cringe, but John Muir was right: people need to climb these mountains and get their good tidings, or the mountains will have no voice. Most people won't fight to protect things they don't love, or love things they don't know.”
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-2)

The National Park Service should maintain full visitor access to the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“It is a spectacular area for camping, hiking, fishing, and horseback riding and should remain easily accessible for all to enjoy.”
(Individual, Comment #162-2)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following recreational values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Spontaneous access to unconfined recreation, year-round.”

(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-11)

“Please also continue to allow full access to the river, including walking along the river and swimming in it.”
(Individual, Comment #369-2)

The National Park Service should maintain private motor vehicle access to the Tuolumne Meadows area.

“[I love] Driving up to the area.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-19)

“Love the drive up to Tuolumne.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-29)

The National Park Service should acknowledge the ease of access that Tuolumne Meadows provides to the high country.

“I have been visiting the area for seven years and lived near here for five years and in Tuolumne for two summers. I have come to know and love this area because of its rational beauty and ease of access to high country terrain.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #22-1)

“TM is unique in that it's up in high country, yet very accessible to a wide range of interests.”
(Individual, Watsonville, CA, Comment #99-2)

“[What do you love about Tuolumne Meadows?] It is a great access point/trailhead for the Yosemite backcountry.”
(Individual, Comment #216-3)

The National Park Service should continue Tioga Road closures during the winter.

“I believe that one of that Tuolumne Meadows’ saving graces is that the road is closed for most of the year. This makes Tuolumne Meadows a place of true wilderness and offers proof that man is but a visitor to Tuolumne Meadows. I love that we are able to use this historic road to get a glimpse of Tuolumne Meadows as it bursts into life during its short warm season.”
(Individual, Blacksburg, VA, Comment #192-10)

“Despite pressure to do otherwise, continue to keep the Tioga Road closed to vehicle access across the long winter. Tuolumne Meadows is hit hard by visitors in the summer. It needs the winter, when it transforms into pure wilderness, to recover. Some visitors request earlier opening dates for easy access to cross country skiing. The meadow ecosystem, however, is especially vulnerable in early spring. There is also something about not being able to easily get here most of the year that makes this place extra special. It lives in our imagination across the year, and then we can’t wait to return.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-2)

“Limit road opening to dates between Memorial Day and the first significant fall snowfall. This will maintain the integrity of the natural resources by not impacting sensitive plant and animal communities including wetlands during late spring snowmelt. Road plowing carries significant wildlife hazards and should be limited to the currently practiced window.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #283-5)

The National Park Service should maintain access to climbing routes and trails.

“Rock climb – current access that climbers have is terrific – don’t want to see it limited. Except for weekends, one can climb with seeing very few people; this is an important part of the experience. This applies to hiking too – choose places where can run into few other people.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-53)

“Climbing is a very important resource in Tuolumne and access to climbing and the strong bolting ethic which currently exist should be critical components of any new plan.”

(Individual, Santa Monica, CA, Comment #127-5)

“I visit annually, specifically for rock climbing. Tuolumne Meadows is a world-class rock-climbing area and I would be concerned about any measures that restricted climbing access.”

(Individual, Comment #11-2)

Limit Visitor Access

The National Park Service should avoid making the park and the Tuolumne area easily accessible.

“My biggest concerns regarding our National Parks in general, and Tuolumne in particular, are: that attempts are still being made to make the parks “easily accessible” to tourists who want to “experience” the parks without moving under their own power, and who are unwilling to sacrifice the least of the “comforts of home” during their visit.”

(Individual, Whittier, CA, Comment #254-3)

The National Park Service should avoid distributing public information about the park in order to deter additional visitor use.

“Do we want to pull in the person who doesn’t know wilderness in order for him to learn? I think you shouldn’t tell anyone about it. It’s important to keep more of this park as wilderness; keep as wild and protected as possible.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-135)

“Why do you advertise it via Sunset, etc if the park is overcrowded?”

(Individual, Fresno, CA, Comment #328-3)

The National Park Service should consolidate visitor access points to and through Tuolumne Meadows.

“Visitor experience and environmental quality in the Tuolumne Meadows area would be greatly improved by consolidation of visitor and stock access. Currently, poor signage and lack of proper trail delineation at major trailheads (e.g. Parson’s Lodge T.H. across from Visitor’s Center) has led to large areas of denuded/impacted vegetation and disturbance (vector for invasive plant infestation) consolidation of access points and trails along with increased restoration and signage would greatly improve ecological function in these areas and enhance visitor experience through educational opportunities and increased ease of orientation.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #17-1)

“Keep access points for visitors consolidated/concentrated.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-16)

“Route visitor access points and trails away from certain meadow areas that are sensitive or have been determined to be exceptionally important for specific species.”

(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-6)

The National Park Service should consider restricting private motor vehicle access to Tuolumne.

“Force more cars out of Tuolumne & the whole park. Put in big parking lots outside park & make visitors take electric/hybrid buses in.”

(Individual, Macomb, IL, Comment #85-1)

“This is the last and biggest (whopper) suggestion: get rid of Problem #One, the automobile. Here's how it might be done: Only those with lodge, campground, or backpacking reservations can drive in. Those people park and thereafter use only the shuttle. Those driving over the Sierra could not stop in the Tuolumne area for more than a few minutes and should be charged a huge toll so that those using the Tioga Road solely to cross the Sierra might choose another route.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-19)

“I believe for the good of future generations and the future health of the Tuolumne ecosystem vehicle access needs to be limited. I propose a plan that would only allow campers with reservations and handicap placarded vehicles beyond Crane Flat or the Eastern entrance station.”

(Individual, Morgan Hill, CA, Comment #191-2)

The National Park Service should restrict commercial vehicle access.

“No commercial vehicles should be allowed.”

(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-6)

The National Park Service should restrict access for off-road mountain bikes, kayaks, and snowmobiles in Tuolumne Meadows.

“I don't believe off road mountain bicycles or snowmobiles have any place at Tuolumne.”

(Individual, Pasadena, CA, Comment #36-3)

“It should remain closed when there is snow, no snow-mobiles or motorized vehicles should ever be allowed then, and no new river uses – e.g., kayaks, etc.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-5)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following recreational values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Exclusion of snowmobiles and other motorized winter recreational vehicles (except for public safety and park management purposes) in these regions to preserve air quality and natural soundscapes.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #299-12)

The National Park Service should restrict visitor access to certain areas of the park, including areas of botanical concern.

“...if we are to keep any semblance of our present forests, meadows and rivers, people have to be kept away from at least large parts of those areas.”

(Individual, La Crescenta, CA, Comment #252-5)

“[What would you like to see protected?] I do not have strong feelings on this issue. Perhaps small areas of botanical concern could be roped off from public footsteps and camping. Off limits areas should be very clearly marked. I am an amateur botanist in Oregon and I do realize the great thrill of finding special plants and places, and riverside areas need to be monitored for overuse. Again, I would like to be informed of areas of concern.”

(Individual, Elkton, OR, Comment #311-10)

The National Park Service should consider ways to facilitate use of the park by US citizens.

“Either preserve the park for the citizens of this country or sell out to big business promoting it to all other nations - we can't have it both ways. - Parks should be for US (United States citizens) - this is the way our forefathers wanted it. - Perhaps make a lottery for international visitors.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #84-3)

“It would be nice to see some common sense and intelligence put to use, maybe the NPS could facilitate use of this park by those who own it (US citizens!!) and in particular those who respect and appreciate it. It would be nice, but I certainly do not expect it. Good Luck.”

(Individual, Minden, CA, Comment #96-2)

Expand Visitor Access

The National Park Service should provide year-round access to Tuolumne Meadows to spread out visitation.

“Could Tuolumne Meadows be opened year round to spread out visitation?”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #266-21)

The National Park Service should open the Tioga Road from the east side earlier in the spring.

“Open Tioga Road earlier. Why are you waiting so long? Spring is a great time to be in Tuolumne Meadows (May and early June)... Open Tioga Road before Olmstead Pt. is ready, allow access from eastside.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-74)

“TIOGA ROAD The east-sider's perspective is a bit different from park management's or most visitors' but needs to be considered, because it exists! Some in our part of the state suspect that opening and closing dates for the pass are driven more by park budget concerns (very real concerns!) than by actual conditions on the road.”

(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-12)

The National Park Service should allow snow-cat access during the winter.

“Winter use- perhaps snow cat access? Would need winterized facility lodging.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #145-35)

The National Park Service should allow off-road mountain biking on some trails in the park.

“Open some trails to mountain bikes.”

(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-5)

“Another improvement I would like to see is limited, and/or designated trail access for offroad bikes I see no reason why horses should be allowed on trails and bikes not. I'm not advocating letting bikes go wherever they want but a set of designated trails that would allow to afford bikers to get a little ride in would be wonderful and greatly appreciated by a large outdoor group. Whatever the reasons that bikes are currently not allowed off road, hundreds of other high-use areas able to deal with them. In some other park (and even in urban park) systems would have excellent advice on limiting impact while opening the park up to the new activity. The parks are going to see higher volume as time goes on. Why not plan ahead and facilitate a new and appropriate user group's enjoyment of the park as well as provide a means of alternate transport in the Meadows?”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #24-4)

Special Populations Access

The National Park Service should provide accessible facilities in Tuolumne Meadows for people with disabilities.

“Acknowledge the experiences and needs of all people, including ADA accessibility. There are ways to design an area to help those with disabilities escape crowds and have a quiet connection with nature (e.g., a deck area that extends over meadow but somewhat away from the road).”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-12)

“Make parts of Tuolumne Meadows ADA accessible so everyone can experience meadows. These types of accommodations do not take away from the beauty and nature of the place.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping, Comment #123-81)

“Most likely the plans will have to consider the Americans with Disabilities Act. With that in mind, I think there should be a boardwalk to replace the trail between Tioga Road and the wooden bridge leading to Parsons Lodge and Glen Aulin and Soda Springs. The trail is terrible now (I doubt that many people think we need to preserve the old Tioga Road) Putting in a boardwalk to the wooden bridge would allow disabled people to get into the Meadow and at least enjoy some of it.”

(Individual, Dunedin, FL, Comment #375-3)

User Capacity

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING THE WILDERNESS TRAILHEAD QUOTA SYSTEM, SEE 'WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT – WILDERNESS TRAILHEAD QUOTA SYSTEM', PAGE 43.

Existing Conditions

The National Park Service should evaluate existing visitor use levels and resulting impacts to park resources.

“Having spent a fair amount of time in various National Parks, I was astounded at the VERY HIGH usage levels here. I can't help but wonder if the park is overused.”

(Individual, Pelham, NY, Comment #86-1)

“Casual observations of the Tuolumne Meadows area indicate current human activities exceed capacity. Observe streamside erosion, social trails impacting meadows, highly negative visual impacts of roadside parking, impacted campgrounds and excessive numbers of people in every visual field during heavy use periods are some examples that the existing use levels are too high.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-4)

“It is obvious to anyone who has been in Tuolumne for more than 10 seasons that roadside recreation (picnicking, strolling, climbing, photographing, and fishing) has increased dramatically along with the number of use-parking spaces. The meadows are being worn, there are traffic safety issues, and the scenic integrity of Tuolumne Meadows is being compromised. Looking out across the Meadows from the north side or from peaks, the presence of large numbers of cars is jarring. As the number of day visitors increase what will Tuolumne look like, how much will the Meadows be damaged, and how many unnecessary accidents will occur. The number of cars that can park in the meadows area may have passed the carry capacity for this delicate and scenic area. What is the proper number of spaces that should be allowed? Can Tuolumne afford more parking lots, stores, etc.?”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include information on the number and types of visitors coming through the park in order to effectively determine infrastructure needs.

“Commercial/economic asset side of things: parking overlay, transportation circulation, emergency services, Tioga Pass accessibility impact and all impacted by capacity, visitor counts and types (characteristics) – need good visitor counts. Know more about the types of visitors and how they are coming through the park.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-52)

Management Direction

The National Park Service should address seasonal crowding issues in Tuolumne Meadows area.

“Tuolumne Meadows: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall; I can't stay away. Unfortunately there are too many who feel the same.”

(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-2)

“Since the John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail both parallel and are in the river zone, the summer carrying capacity of the river for hiking and camping needs to be discussed, especially the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge on Dana Fork and Tuolumne Meadows Campground.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-93)

“In general, Tuolumne Meadows is at user capacity most of the summer and above capacity on holiday weekends and the first three weeks of August.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-2)

The National Park Service should reduce group size limits allowed within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Group size limits: The NPS at Yosemite has in the past taken the irresponsible, unsupportable (and illegal) position that limits on group size will only be adjusted in conjunction with surrounding land units. This ignores the mandate of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to preserve wilderness and wild & scenic river values regardless of how other surrounding areas might be managed (or mismanaged). The fact that officials in the central and southern Sierra agreed on a consistent number in 1991 for maximum group sizes is no excuse to ignore the mandates of the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Park Service's Organic Act. This is especially true since the 15-year-old decision to allow 25 stock animals per group throughout the central/southern Sierra was adopted without following any NEPA process, and was implemented over the strong objections of hundreds of citizens and scores of conservation groups. Further, the current group size limits have been shown to significantly and adversely affect park resources and values. In order to adequately protect Yosemite's environment and wild & scenic river values, the group size limits must be revised downward.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-40)

“Number of persons per group (on trails). Dr. David Cole, an internationally recognized research scientist, has written: “Limits on party size must be quite low (certainly no larger than 10) to be worthwhile” (Cole 1989). We therefore propose that group size (on trails) be limited to 10 persons, as suggested by Dr. Cole.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-41)

“Number of persons per group (off trail). Large groups traveling “cross-country” cause significantly greater impacts to resources and the experience of visitors (Cole 1989 & 1990, Stankey 1973). Dr. Cole (1989) has written: “...small parties are critical to avoid the creation of new campsites and trails in little-used places ... Once a party exceeds a certain number (perhaps four to six), special care must be taken in off-trail travel.” As suggested by Dr. Cole, group size should be limited to no more than four to six persons for all off-trail travel.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-42)

The National Park Service should limit visitor use in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor in order to reduce impacts to park resources and maintain the quality of the visitor experience.

“As the number of persons going through Tuolumne doubles and doubles again, more restrictions need to be planned ahead of time to prevent further erosion of the experience.”

(Individual, Comment #150-19)

“I would like to see limited use of the river: swimming, fishing, and observing - nothing motorized. It has great healing and restorative value. It soothes and calms the body and soul. Do not let it become overcrowded and polluted. The same goes for the meadows.”

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #209-1)

“The Park should take this opportunity to limit uses in the river corridor to make resource protection effective. If necessary, widen the corridor.”

(Individual, Comment #447-1)

The National Park Service should distribute visitor use to protect park resources and maintain a high-quality visitor experience.

“Define uses at different areas to better identify parking and use issues.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-14)

“Managing where people go – manage by better distribution/communication to manage crowded.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-47)

"We try to direct people to where we don't think there will be a big problem (Dog Lake)."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-138)

The TRP/TMP EIS should maintain existing visitor use levels in the Tuolumne area.

"Current capacity seems about right."
(Individual, Lake Forest Park, WA, Comment #434-2)

"There is more room for people on the trails here."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-22)

The National Park Service should implement user capacity limits.

"...the number of visitors seems to cause the most problems. Those who visit should view it as an honor to be allowed to enter the home of that which already lives here - it is the home of the natural world- animals, plants, etc. There needs to be a respect for that world and for other visitors to it. We need to allow it to exist and flourish, to lessen our impact on it, and to repair as much damage as possible. Reducing the number of visitors and enforcing regulations that already exist would go a long way to correcting the abuses."
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-38)

"Strong need for user capacity limits."
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #124-2)

"Limit number of passes into park (public knowledge) but conflicts with declaration of park. Re: visitor use and enjoyment. Control thru transportation – control people who come through, drive in/drive out."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-42)

The TRP/TMP EIS should outline a user capacity program in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor that will protect river values and the health of the area.

"We think that there are many other areas in which a capacity decision must underpin subsequent decisions; camping, day use hiking, trail use, water quality, and stock use (discussed below) . All of the major "use" issues in Tuolumne -- all of them -- properly tier from a legally adequate, complete CMP for the Tuolumne WSR, and must rely upon decisions on capacity which protect and enhance the Tuolumne river's protected values."
(Environmental Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #300-10)

"We need to determine how many people can use the Tuolumne area without damaging its health, and we need to find effective ways to hold visitor use to this level.....We could do this by: Determining baseline natural processes (e.g. composition of plant and animal communities, hydrology, soils); Determining which human uses are consistent with meadow health; Determining the human carrying capacity for these uses (e.g. for walking, fishing, picnicking)."
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-14)

The National Park Service should develop a user capacity system that does not exclude visitors from the park.

"I think the voice of reason has been lost when we start talking about excluding people from "Experiencing their America." People shouldn't be excluded from entering Tuolumne Meadows because they didn't depart early enough, didn't make a reservation 2 to 3 years in advance, or are turned away because their transportation was too loud. Yosemite National Park is a national park, its not just for the people who feel like they own it because they've lived here or because they feel some sort of connection to it. It's a national park so that everyone can have a connection to it, so everyone can experience it. ... And, no controlling, utopian freaks should be able to get the gates closed based on a contrived "Yosemite maximum capacity." I worry that if a user capacity is established it could become variable instead of fixed, due to operational or seasonal conditions which would not be conducive to the visitor experience."

(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #219-4)

“BALANCE OF ACCESS WITH PRESERVATION It is instinctual to preserve such spectacular terrain as Tuolumne Meadows. However, as defined by the Organic Act, the National Park Service is required to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations. Therefore, our greatest concern is guaranteed access for all. “Access” meaning the ability to see and experience the area—the ability to do more than just “drive through.” However, with rising visitors numbers each year, we are concerned with maintaining a high level of resource protection so these fascinating areas are protected for future generations. Thus, we strongly urge the National Park Service to implement a user capacity management plan—an attempt to evenly distribute visitors throughout the meadow and decrease impact at one particular point, rather than prohibiting access on busy days.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-1)

“Park Administration should focus on creating a positive wilderness experience for everyone. This means if more people are coming here, focus on minimizing their impact (no cars?) and reducing their needs, not accommodating all of their perceived needs. This is a lesson most people in western society could benefit from.”

(Individual, Cazadero, CA, Comment #104-2)

The National Park Service may not need to manage visitor use outside of developed areas.

“The people that explore away from developed areas understand how to better care for the resource, and may not need controls.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-46)

“While some congestion occurs in the immediate vicinity of the store and grill. As a climber I see little or no congestion or crowding away from the immediate roadside area. I do not believe any management to increase solitude or limit human encounters is necessary. The TRP/TMP/EIS should address carrying capacity for the river.”

(Individual, Chelsea, ME, Comment #11-3)

The National Park Service should manage visitor access by implementing a quota system.

“Consider having a quota system to control the visitor experience, protect the resource, and provide access.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #266-18)

The National Park Service should manage visitor access without implementing a quota system.

“Educate people rather than using quotas.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-70)

“To maintain the quality of the Tuolumne experience I can see that there might be a time (perhaps in the not too distant future) to limit those visiting the meadows. On a “full day” if notification was adequate visitors could be redirected to other park venues. Also if this was the norm, hence well known by visitors in advance, they could schedule reservations much in the same way they already do for the limited resource of camping and lodging sites. This would likely be a very few days at peak season anyway. It would assure that the “nature experience of visitors would be one of quality, within a reasonable backdrop of humanity (cars, crowds, facilities, etc.). The alternative seems to be unending growth in an area where the main resource that makes it a desirable destination is space, views, wilderness, and solitude. Compromise is indeed part of the picture but the scales should not tip toward a total sacrifice of the attributes of a high country experience. The NPS should not implement a quota system for managing visitor use.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-6)

The National Park Service should manage day-use visitors to the park.

“Limiting day-use? Seems like it is the core of all problems we have. Booth at trailheads? ... people at the gates? Are they the ones tearing up the trails? Are these the people that don’t go more than a mile off the trail? Average stay 4 hrs.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-130)

“The increase in day-use visitors seems central to all issues, including our parking and meadow trampling problems. Perhaps a real-time data collection and CalTrans messaging system on highways and in communities outside the park could effectively manage the numbers of people passing through. We talked about outlying visitor centers having information available for activities and recreational possibilities in their areas to satisfy the needs of visitors as they wait for park access. Or maybe it’s time for a day-use park entrance reservation system, similar to the wilderness permit system.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-15)

“Overnight visitors are being accounted for; but what about the day visitors?”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-45)

The National Park Service should avoid restricting day-use access.

“I have been coming here for fishing and rock climbing for about 25 years. Any changes to the current day use of wilderness areas which further restrict access to these beautiful areas must be avoided.”

(Individual, La Crescenta, CA, Comment #277-1)

The National Park Service should consider a day-use reservation system to address user capacity.

“Much of the concern articulated above would not be an issue if user capacity were addressed in a meaningful way. It is possible that a day-use reservation system would logically be part of addressing user capacity. But the circumstances in Tuolumne Meadows are so vastly different from those in Yosemite Valley that the desirable management actions would not necessarily be the same. So we are not advocating a reservation system for the Meadows, but it probably should be discussed.”

(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-15)

“Establish an agreed-upon number of parking spaces, line them clearly, and give \$50 tickets to anyone parking illegally. If the lot is full, tough luck. Do NOT build any more lots... The word will get around that TM can be FULL. At that point, for believe me you will never be able to accommodate the automobile completely, you may have to go on a day-use permit system. I will be the first to comply.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-21)

The National Park Service should recognize that a reservation system does not work for everyone.

“Not everyone can plan 4 months in advance to get a reservation. This is a demographic problem/issue.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-134)

The National Park Service should adopt a user capacity management program that includes communication with gateway communities and pre-planning strategies.

“There are middle ground solutions to user capacity that NPS has not fully considered but needs to. [NAME DELETED] is sending the NPS a strategic user capacity program in which pre-planning and communication with gateway communities is a key element.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #266-22)

“Information and communication with gateway communities regarding congestion and alternate areas to visit needs to be made a priority in the park’s user capacity program. There are many things to do in gateways and other areas in the park (Hetch Hetchy) where visitors could be diverted if there was adequate communication with gateways.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #266-23)

“Population growth in surrounding areas will eventually overcome the park (people on roads, slow process, no notice until too late!).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-41)

The National Park Service should detail the socio-economic impact of a user capacity program on gateway communities.

“User/Visitor capacity: how will it be addressed – what methodology – intend to decrease/increase and what are socio-economic impacts to gateways? Who, where and what are people doing- need to understand that- Methodology- evidence of impacts needs to be addressed.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-44)

The National Park Service should use limited automobile access to establish and guide visitor capacity levels.

“Limiting the number of vehicles in the Tuolumne Meadows area will help establish and guide visitor capacity levels.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-5)

“Want to see fewer cars allowed into Tuolumne Meadows; perhaps set strict limits like Wilderness does for trails...The traffic and parking in Tuolumne Meadows needs to be addressed- perhaps only allow shuttles into the Tuolumne Meadows area.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-18)

“Find ways to limit cars. Higher fees, whatever, parking fees.”

(Individual, Bonita, CA, Comment #427-3)

The National Park Service should use limited parking capacity to manage visitor use.

“Can’t close the gate after a set number, but can manage my limiting parking spaces. This encourages people to come up early/late when parking is available, or take shuttle.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-75)

“Parking lots will never be big enough unless we manage the number of visitors coming to Tuolumne. Limited parking is one way to limit use.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-16)

“Need some way to minimize use on peak days – limited parking? Promote use of shuttle bus – and/or extend.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-58)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address user capacity as outlined in the Traffic Plan for Highway 120.

“Visitor capacity of the TM area is directly related to the traffic plan for Hwy 120. What is the traffic plan as related to number of vehicles that have TM as a destination and those visitors and others just driving through?”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-18)

“Discussion of visitor/user capacity hinged upon transportation plan (#that walk-in is fairly low vs. those who walk out) Mostly based on Hwy 120 plan and months road is open between Crane Flat and Tioga Pass.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-51)

The TRP/TMP EIS should establish user capacity limits within Wild segments of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River that satisfy 75% of wilderness users.

“Looking at User Capacity, CSERC recommends that user capacity within all wild segments of the river corridor be managed primarily to minimize use about levels that are deemed satisfactory to at least 75% of wilderness visitors. Our staff personally prefers very low levels of contact with other visitors because we primarily seek solitude, wildlife sightings, and being intermeshed with the ecosystem. If, however, 75%+ of wilderness visitors in the Tuolumne River corridor (outside of the Tuolumne Meadows zone) are satisfied with seeing up to 75 or 100 other people a day, then the Park should at least consider that level in a proposed action.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #251-4)

Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP)

The National Park Service should implement VERP because visitation to national parks is decreasing.

“With visitation decreasing service wide I feel that VERP makes more sense than ever.”

(Individual, Fish Camp, CA, Comment #174-2)

The National Park Service should develop alternatives to VERP as the user capacity program for the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“The District Court recently ruled that the Park Service's Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) planning framework, which is the Park Service's primary user capacity program, "is not oriented toward preventing degradation" and is not valid under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.”

(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, Comment #256-10)

“Scoping has been improperly narrowed: The Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Management Plan, at this early phase of scoping, has been made illegally narrow by suggesting openly and repeatedly to the public that the NPS will consider only one approach to addressing user capacity within the Tuolumne WSR Corridor: VERP. This is nothing short of astonishing in light of the District Court's holding that the 2005 Merced Plan was illegal, in part because it developed all alternatives from an approach which would give the same outcome (VERP). The ink is not dry on that decision, and the NPS is refusing to abide by its most basic direction. Moreover, while it might be helpful for us to enumerate the details of the ruling, and the mis-match of VERP to the requirements of a legally compliant WSRMP, this would be pointless. The ruling is publicly available. We suggest that the NPS needs to read the ruling and accept its instruction. The suggestion that scoping is not being conducted on the "settled" issue of capacity, in itself, makes the scoping process invalid.”

(Environmental Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #300-3)

“We incorporate by reference our thoroughgoing critique of VERP as stated in prior NEPA comments, and court our briefs. NPS should create alternatives to VERP.”

(Environmental Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #300-4)

The National Park Service should use a combination of the VERP framework with quotas as a means to establish visitor use levels that are protective of river values.

“We need to determine how many people can use the Tuolumne area without damaging its health, and we need to find effective ways to hold visitor use to this level. Perhaps combining VERP methods (a long-term view) with quotas (an in-the-moment determination) would be the best approach.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-12)

Recreation

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING PICNIC AREAS, SEE 'VISITOR SERVICES – NPS SERVICES AND FACILITIES', PAGE 143.

Types of Recreational Use

The TRP/TMP EIS should acknowledge the broad range of recreational opportunities in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Just looking at river, greenness, sounds, rocks, wildlife, flowers.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-28)

“The river is fun to play in. We watch the fish and play with rocks.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-67)

“I picnic.”
(Individual, Redwood City, CA, Comment #286-6)

“Love the hiking and backpacking available here.”
(Individual, Lodi, CA, Comment #281-4)

“Love the drive up to Tuolumne.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-29)

“Tuolumne, in all its moods, invites human exploration in myriad ways: 1. walking: hiking, strolling, exploring, backpacking; 2. resting: relaxing, napping, reading, sitting around campfires; 3. picnicking; 4. creating art: drawing and painting, making and listening to music, doing photography, writing poetry and letters; 5. learning: observing wildlife, studying natural and human history, listening to lectures at Parsons, catching (and releasing) insects, attending ranger walks, exploring geology, doing research of all kinds, visiting Parsons Lodge and McCauley Cabin; 6. observing: birding, identifying plants and fungi, observing wildlife, making nature notebooks; 7. playing: making snowballs, throwing sticks and rocks in the river, telling stories, singing, shopping for souvenirs, making fairy houses, whittling; 8. horseback riding; 9. swimming: wading, skinny dipping; 10. climbing; 11. living: raising children, camping, telling stories, finding and eating wild berries; 12. adventuring: creating memories and stories; 13. finding inspiration: enjoying natural sounds, learning about the heroes who shaped this place, attending campfire programs, gazing at the stars; 14. fishing; 15. driving and sightseeing.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-4)

“WHAT I DO Nature study, swim, just be there. Drive from the east side to meet friends and family from the west. Mostly I walk, in every direction. I don't need a trail (although I'm mindful that there are places NOT to walk). Tuolumne, more than any other place I know, invites unrestricted wandering.”
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-1)

“What do you do in Tuolumne Meadows or along the Tuolumne River? Like to hike and bird watch; look for wildlife; identify wildflowers and the “meadows” and along the river.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-143)

Hiking

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT HIKING TRAILS, SEE 'PARK OPERATIONS – TRAILS', PAGE 186.

The National Park Service should expand hiking and backpacking opportunities.

“Hiking and backpacking opportunities should also be expanded.”

(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-14)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of hiking within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“In the summer of 1993, my wife and I, along with another couple, were fortunate enough to spend a week in the Tuolumne Meadows area hiking from one High Sierra Camp to another. One of my finest memories was the first day hiking along the Tuolumne River down to our first camp. What a glorious day enjoying the beauty of the Yosemite high country.”

(Individual, Springfield, OR, Comment #132-1)

“Is there anything better than hiking through the upper meadows toward Mt. Lyell in the spring with wildflowers blooming, some chill left in the air and the sound of the river as it meanders along. Only the fall, when the crowds thin and the nighttime temperatures signal the advance of winter can the spring be rivaled.”

(Individual, Comment #151-2)

“[What do you do while you're there?] We camp at the campground, we hike into the surrounding lakes and alpine areas with wildflowers, especially the Dana hanging meadows. We love to hike the hundreds of trails to all the high sierra destinations. We love to hike down the Tuolumne river canyon past all the cascades.”

(Individual, Corvallis, OR, Comment #353-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify trail user types within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“First users: who are the users of trails? The user can be described and defined by the mode of transport used to move along the trail. Horse traffic, wheelchair traffic, hikers and runners, or motorcycles, sleds, mountain bikes, skis. Users can also be classified by their destinations. Loop hikers, overlook hikers, backpackers.”

(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-9)

Camping

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING CAMPGROUNDS, SEE ‘VISITOR SERVICES – CAMPGROUNDS’, PAGE 115.

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of camping in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Camping and primitive/natural environment is part of Tuolumne Meadows. People come up here for the natural beauty and enjoying what’s around.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-74)

“Having lived in Fresno most of my younger life, I was "raised "on Yosemite all months of the year. Tuolumne Meadows was our favorite camping area then and remains now with my own grown family and grandchildren.”

(Individual, Comment #162-1)

“First, camping is a form of recreation, in which the camper has to provide their own shelter, food, warmth and protection from wildlife, insects, and the elements. Staying in developed accommodations, by contrast, where these services are provided to the visitor, is a form of leisure that separates the visitor from park resources. Camping brings the visitor into a direct relationship with park resources and distances the visitor from the commercial values of comfort and convenience and the expression of social status. Thus, camping brings the visitor closer to the very natural attributes for which national parks are set aside and protected.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-14)

The National Park Service should implement more restrictions on camping in Tuolumne.

"If anything, I would favor further restrictions on camping in the area."

(Individual, Comment #39-2)

The National Park Service should designate select areas outside of campgrounds that are appropriate for car camping.

"My second concern for the Meadows is the availability of easy overnight camping... I think you would find climbers very receptive to the idea of being able to stay one night in a vehicle before leaving a trailhead. This could be limited to a certain area, furthest from the trailhead to keep open spots, and bathrooms could be provided to keep people from urinating on the side of the road. Perhaps I am missing some of the reasoning, but if it could be managed, I don't understand the harm in letting people stay in their vehicle provided that food is locked in a bear box."

(Individual, Everett, WA, Comment #108-5)

"I have a camper on my pickup and basically only need a place to park it to sleep and prepare breakfast and dinner. During most of the daylight hours I am out climbing and hiking. I don't really need a campground which is used by people that spend much of the day in the campground. A paved parking area that is quiet and centrally located would be perfect for me."

(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-3)

The National Park Service should allow camping at Elizabeth Lake.

"Allow overnight camping again at Elizabeth Lake; this was an ideal place for families with small children to experience the wilderness and now the only nearby place seems to be the lower Cathedral Lake which is farther away; place bear boxes at Elizabeth Lake."

(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-12)

The National Park Service should allow overnight camping in the Parker Pass Creek drainage area.

"Recreational values of camping along the river (at an appropriate distance) should be protected. It concerns me that camping is prohibited in the Parker Pass Creek drainage, ostensibly for protecting water quality for the City of San Francisco (as my wilderness permit clearly stated this July). However, in the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center there is an interpretive panel on the wall that talks about how well the soil treats human waste when disposed of properly. These inconsistent messages should be reconciled, and camping should be allowed in the Parker Pass Creek drainage."

(Individual, Comment #201-4)

The National Park Service should consider limiting or relocating camping to the fringes of park.

"Should camping be limited? Can camping be moved to areas on the fringes of the park?"

(Individual, Comment #141-3)

Rock Climbing

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING THE MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL AND RETAIL SERVICES, SEE 'VISITOR SERVICES – DELAWARE NORTH CORPORATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES', PAGE 145.

The National Park Service should maintain a "hands-off" approach to management of rock climbing.

"The Park Service should keep a "hands off" approach to rock climbing."

(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-15)

“When parks try to manage climbing experience, they usually mess it up – better to take a hands-off approach.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-91)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of climbing in Tuolumne Meadows.

“My main reason for going to Tuolumne Meadows is for the excellent rock climbing opportunities.”
(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-2)

“I consider climbing at Tuolumne Meadows to be great privilege and a national treasure. It's a favorite travel destination of mine. I hope to bring my children there climbing someday. And their children. In my job as the director of a climbing school, I see the wonder on the faces of climbers young and old as they consider trips to your park. Often this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip for us midwesterners. I am grateful that your park exists and that your management plan allows for climbers as a user group. I sincerely hope that your plans for the area will consider rockclimbing to be an important activity at Tuolumne and continue to manage the area in a way that supports climbing.”

(Individual, Duluth, MN, Comment #112-1)

“Tuolumne Meadows offers some of the finest alpine rock climbing and scenery found anywhere in the world. Boasting both short “cragging” routes and multi-pitch alpine summits (both Tuolumne styles of which are considered classics by climbers world-wide) the Tuolumne area has attracted climbers since at least the 1940s when the Mathes Crest and Southeast Buttress of Cathedral Peak were first scaled. New climbing route activity continued through the late 1950 and 1960s when signature Tuolumne climbs such as the Crescent Arch on Daff Dome, the West Ridge of Mount Conness, and the Regular Route on Fairview Dome were first made. Into the 1970s climbing test pieces were established on Medlicott Dome (Bachar-Yerian) as well as modern Tuolumne favorites such as the Third Pillar of Mount Dana. Climbing guidebook writer Greg Barnes notes that the Meadows provides a very different experience from what climbers find in Yosemite Valley. “Instead of smooth, polished cracks and blank faces, Tuolumne has sharp, angular cracks, endless fields of knobs, and golden glacier polish with incut edges.” [2] Tuolumne is cool when the summer heat cooks lower elevations, and the Meadows has little traffic compared to the near urban atmosphere of Yosemite Valley. Thus, in addition to the area’s unique geologic attributes that make it ideal for rock climbing and wilderness camping, Tuolumne also fits a seasonal niche: every summer overheated climbers and campers travel to Tuolumne from afar seeking the cool temperatures found in the Tuolumne high country.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-3)

The National Park Service should promote and protect wilderness climbing, camping and other recreational values within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Wilderness climbing and camping in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne around and below Glen Aulin Camping in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground Use of the services and facilities found at Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness climbing and camping are recreational values promoted and protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Tuolumne River Plan should take notice. As noted, Congress passed the WSRA to protect “free-flowing” rivers—and their immediate environments—which “possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.” [26] Congress also acknowledged that these river segments are to be “protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.” [27].”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-27)

Bicycling

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING BIKE LANES AND TRAILS, SEE ‘PARK OPERATIONS – TRAILS’, PAGE 186.

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING BICYCLE SERVICES AND RENTALS, SEE 'VISITOR SERVICES – DELAWARE NORTH CORPORATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES', PAGE 145.

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of bicycling.

"I don't like horses. I like bikes."

(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #46-1)

"I love to be in Tuolumne biking before the road opens."

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-89)

"Like to bicycle, but don't like the fear of being run over by rented RVs."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-153)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address rules for bicycle use within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

"Will use of bicycles and scooters in the river corridor be under the same rules as in Yosemite Valley?"

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-100)

Swimming and Fishing

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of swimming in the river.

"[What do you do while here?] Swimming (skinny-dipping too, you can do that here without being seen!)."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-22)

"Recreational values of swimming in the river should be protected."

(Individual, Comment #201-5)

"Keep river for swimming!"

(Individual, Pacific Grove, CA, Comment #74-4)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of fishing in the river.

"Good fishing....Access to fishing."

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-44)

"They love to fly fish in the river and hike around the meadows."

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-25)

"I would hope that fishing and recreational use by individuals could continue."

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #382-12)

The National Park Service should protect access to fishing in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

"Protect fish habitat and access for fishing."

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-33)

The National Park Service should consider providing a fly-fishing camp in Tuolumne Meadows area.

"It may also be possible to include a fly fishing camp in the Tuolumne River/Meadows area for those who really wish to try this form of fishing but wouldn't ordinarily attempt to do so for whatever reason!"

(Individual, Comment #133-6)

The National Park Service should restrict fishing in the river.

“Frankly, we would be happy if fishing weren’t allowed.”

(Individual, Comment #217-13)

“River use: Fishing should not be allowed in cg areas.”

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-13)

Boating

The National Park Service should continue to prohibit commercial and recreational boating on the river.

“I think we should continue to prohibit boating on the Tuolumne River because such uses demand more development (intake and landing areas, shuttle parking, etc.), which is inconsistent with the river’s outstandingly remarkable values. Other areas of the park provide ample spots for boating. And in the Valley, where rafting is allowed, there is pressure to make management decisions related to rafting safety, rather than river processes. This is understandable; however, if we do not allow rafting, this pressure will not come to bear on the Tuolumne, so it will remain a unique example of a wild river.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-26)

“Protect: A kayak-free/ boat-free river: Valley boating has degraded river habitat and led to management decisions that favor human use rather than natural processes.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-10)

“I believe that commercial rafting or boating should not be allowed.”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #382-11)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include an alternative that will allow non-motorized boating in the river.

“The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act supports the public’s ability to float rivers in protected wilderness areas. The Trust recommends that the National Park Service explore a management alternative that would open all sections of the Tuolumne River within the Park to boating.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-10)

“The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act fully supports the public’s ability to float rivers in protected wilderness areas. What is the NPS’s rationale for closing the Tuolumne to paddling as a wilderness compliant use? We are very interested in the evaluation of an alternative that would open all sections of the Tuolumne River to Boating.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-64)

“We also love to kayak and think that non-motorized boating should be allowed along the entire river. That is a totally non-polluting and non-destructive way to enjoy the resource. Limited areas for launching and pulling out would create little disturbance.”

(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #425-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should discuss the Public Trust Doctrine, legal framework, case law, policy, and safety issues regarding recreational boating on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Discuss Public Trust Doctrine, legal framework, policy and safety issues associated with recreational boating on the TR.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-65)

“Include in any discussion of white water boating the applicable California case law in the Fall River and American River cases.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-47)

Winter Recreation

The National Park Service should maintain the winter use/ski-hut program.

“[Protect] winter use/ski hut.”

(Individual, Mariposa Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-14)

“Maintain ski-hut program (as it is now, stocked wood/food cache): way to experience during the winter”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-29)

The National Park Service should recognize winter recreational values.

“There’s nothing like Tuolumne in the winter.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-72)

“The remoteness of Tuolumne is an asset especially in winter.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-77)

“Skiing in Tuolumne Meadows is a unique experience/skiing along the river.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-45)

Golf

The National Park Service should consider a golf course in Tuolumne Meadows as inappropriate.

“Putting in a 9-hole golf course at Tuolumne Meadows does not add to the visitor’s enjoyment of the meadows but replaces one pleasuring ground with another, replacing a natural object with a cultural object of pleasure. The experience of the meadows is not enhanced by a golf club; the presence of a 9 hole course would detract from the experience of others. The course could be located outside the park to effect a net gain in preservation and no net loss to the experience of the meadows. Obviously, a golf course is out of place.”

(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-3)

Photography

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of photography.

“Photography (need retail photo supplies)...”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-56)

“Would like photography walks in Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-57)

“[What do you do while here?] Photography...”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-26)

Backpacking

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of backpacking.

“It is a back-packer's paradise.”

(Individual, Townsend, MT, Comment #32-7)

“I’ve continued to backpack the area to this day. The solitude of off-trail trekking, and truly getting away from the masses have been a welcome respite from my career that had me operating a real estate firm, headquartered in Japan and requiring travel through some of the most populous areas of Asia. Huffing and puffing up Donahue or Cathedral passes provides ample, clear-headed opportunities to reflect on business strategies and career goals while at the same time reflecting on the fact that we are but a asterisk in the grand scheme of geologic time and our physical environment. .Likewise backpacking tests our mental and physical endurance. My longest and toughest test was a 14 day trip I took many years ago with a couple of like-minded buddies. We began our trip outside the park at Twin Lakes met up with the Tuolumne and followed it upstream to the Meadows, traversed Cathedral Pass (where we encountered 3-4’ of snow in mid-July) and continued down through Little Yosemite Valley to Happy Isles. I have used that trip as the basis of many “inspirational” talks to staff in offices from Japan to Shanghai to Kuala Lumpur.”

(Individual, Comment #151-5)

“My areas of concern are for the backpackers that use the area for both starting, passing through and ending their hikes at Tuolumne Meadows. This involved subject can be for backpacker vehicle parking issues, inexpensive overnight backpacking camping services, and the vehicular hiker shuttle service which provides a great environmental friendly system for backpack carrying people. Backpacking at Tuolumne Meadows is a real treat for those inclined to be able to physically enjoy the true Yosemite High Sierra. From an environmental point of view, with the annual Hwy #120 winter closure, heavy backpacker crowding issues in Tuolumne Meadows are such a seasonal recreational activity that negative environmental outcomes are minimized when compared to a year round backpacking park setting.”

(Individual, Comment #3-1)

Enjoyment of the Natural Environment

The National Park Service should manage recreation in Tuolumne Meadows to reduce natural resource impacts.

“Organize Tuolumne Meadows Recreation. Unmanaged recreation in Tuolumne Meadows appears to have reduced some of the biological values of the main meadow complex. CSERC asks that the Park consider ways to limit uncontrolled access and unmanaged recreation in the meadow. In particular, impacts due to meadow trampling need to be addressed through analysis of the feasibility of creating more defined paths, better signage as folks enter the meadow, or other protective measures.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-9)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of experiencing a meadow.

“He loves being able to walk and lay in the Meadow- he doesn’t want to lose this ability.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-66)

“I understand wanting to keep the meadow pristine, but we should also appreciate the fact that hundreds of thousands of people pass by each year, and for many, a walk in the meadow is their only experience in the high country. Going home with an appreciation of nature may lead them to support environmental issues in politics.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-15)

“In addition, I spend a fair amount of time in the meadows. I like to walk to the two footbridges from the lodge or the campground, and then to find a quiet place along the river to sit, read, nap. I sit by the small creek that flows into the meadows near the Sunrise trailhead. I often walk out to Soda Springs, and then either up or down the river, at sunset to watch the colors over the meadows.”

(Individual, Redwood City, CA, Comment #286-4)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of seeing waterfalls in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River.

“Obviously the pools of the Grand Rapids are also enjoyable, but I do not feel these areas are at some much of a risk for over-usage simply due to their location.”

(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #205-5)

“My recent five nights were postponed from 2005. For me the prize goes to the waterfalls below Glen Aulin (White, California, Le Conte and Waterwheel). The wildflowers and aspens were stunning. The waterfalls themselves marvelous.”

(Individual, Comment #37-6)

“I wish non-backpackers would see Waterwheel Falls. (Example: horseback rides).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-68)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of Tuolumne as a place that inspires artistic expression.

“[What do you do while here?] Painting, sketching, class sketching along the river...”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-31)

“[What do you do while here?] Sleep by the river and listen to the storie ; capture images to make paintings from...”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-37)

“She also likes to paint in the meadows.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-5)

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of star gazing.

“Find a way to increase night use (without encouraging OB camping) in the meadow. Not all star gazers are OB Campers. Rangers have harassed people in meadow at night.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-53)

“[What do you do while here?] Lie on a rock, watch the Perseids meteor shower...”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-41)

“[What do you do while here?] Star watching...”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-27)

Visitor Services

FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES AT HETCH HETCHY, SEE 'HETCH HETCHY', PAGE 43.

Level of Facilities Development

The National Park Service should consider what facilities and services are compatible with the mission of the National Park Service to preserve resources and provide for visitor enjoyment.

"First, I want to address a question posed in the scoping notice: What facilities and services are or are not appropriate? I could list these misfits: high-rise structures over 23 stories high, firing ranges for the Sherman Antique Tank Association, a transmission tower for a proposed KNPS radio station, etc. Rather than state the obvious of approved and rejected services, I rather refer back to the time-honored vision of the Park Service, to preserve the natural and historic objects for the enjoyment of the people. The decision whether a facility or service is acceptable should be based on two decisions: 1) whether or not they are compatible with the preservation mission of the NPS; [and] 2) whether they add to the enjoyment of visitor."

(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-2)

The National Park Service should remove structural development in Tuolumne Meadows to create a lower impact, less urbanized experience.

"My personal view is that much of the structural development in Tuolumne Meadows (store, grill, gas station, Tuolumne Lodge) is a heritage of an era when such development was considered more compatible with a park experience than it now is. Removal of the store, grill, gas station, stables, or Tuolumne Lodge could promote a lower-impact, less urbanized experience without significantly limiting access."

(Individual, Chelsea, ME, Comment #11-4)

The National Park Service should remove and/or reduce existing commercial operations in Tuolumne Meadows.

"I have been a regular visitor to Tuolumne Meadows for about 45 years and find myself ever more dismayed by the dramatically increasing human impact at this wondrously unique Sierra gem. I strongly urge the Park Service to adopt policies through your planning process that scale back all commercial uses at Tuolumne Meadows."

(Individual, San Anselmo, CA, Comment #195-1)

"I am greatly in favor of drastically reducing all commercial operations in and adjacent to Tuolumne meadows...I believe that by limiting commercial activities (pack trains and high camps), the damage to Tuolumne meadows will be slowed, the environmental impacts will be reduced and Tuolumne Meadows might endure so my children can enjoy it."

(Individual, Bend, OR, Comment #242-1)

"The NPS should strive to reduce commercial exploitation of the Tuolumne Meadows area and the Tuolumne River corridor."

(Environmental Organization, Clovis, CA, Comment #290-1)

The National Park Service should recognize that current facilities are adequate and no further amenities are needed in Tuolumne Meadows.

"I love the lack of development...In my mind there is no reason to ever develop along the Tuolumne River, or in Tuolumne Meadows. People come here to enjoy the natural beauty. If a visitor desires more lush accommodation than the campgrounds, they have the option of staying at the Lodge. Why do we need development? There is no need

for it...There is already a restaurant, a store, a gas station, a huge campground, visitor center, etc. I cannot think of anything else that is needed for community improvement at this time."
(Individual, Jackson, CA, Comment #13-3)

"I cannot express enough that this is clearly in my opinion one case where the adage of" If it isn't broke don't fix it!" only I wish to add the word PLEASE. ..you cannot improve on what is there both naturally and manmade. I feel confident that the funds that would be used for any changes will not go to waste in some other much more justified upgrades within the park."
(Individual, Comment #110-1)

"First and foremost—DO NOT DEVELOP. We appreciate the way the NPS has managed to have 750,000 visitors pass through the Tioga Road each year, while maintaining a relatively small human footprint. The Park Service has done a superlative job maintaining the balance between preserving the pristine nature of TM while providing access to all who pass. Please, please, please do not do a bunch of developing. The seasonal human impact on TM with months to refresh each winter enables the meadows to recover from the impact several months of human visitation has."
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-2)

The National Park Service should protect Tuolumne from the development and commercialization that is found in Yosemite Valley.

"DON'T TURN TUOLUMNE INTO A YOSEMITE VALLEY!"
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-87)

"Last week was the first time me & my family visited Tuolumne Meadows. We have always visited the Valley and decided to see the "other" side of Yosemite. What I noticed right away was the lack of congestion & people in Tuolumne! Don't turn the "upper" Sierra portion of Yosemite into the Valley - you will lose something very special!"
(Individual, Seal Beach, CA, Comment #105-1)

"Avoid any addition of high-end eateries, coffee bars, and the like. Visitors to the park will find these in Yosemite Valley, in a variety ranging from the Ahwahnee to Degnan's. The high country should offer a more rugged feeling, deliberately isolated from everyday urban consumer whims."
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-8)

The National Park Service should expand existing visitor services in Tuolumne.

"I would fervently suggest that there should be more development at Tuolumne Meadows. As a family which stays in the Valley at provided lodging, we invariably also travel to the high country---and must return to the Valley floor on the same day as a result of the lack of sufficient lodging."
(Individual, Comment #198-2)

"There should be more campgrounds available."
(Individual, Arlington, TX, Comment #136-3)

"Build 3-5 more cafes and eating spots between the present TM grill and the service station. These should be outside of the contract presently held by the concessionaire (is it YCS?) to foster variety and give people a chance to interact. (these cafes might be used as sleeping places in winter)."
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-7)

The National Park Service should recognize the importance of maintaining family-friendly facilities.

"Family-friendly facilities are important to me."
(Individual, Fish Camp, CA, Comment #174-3)

“Keep up the great work. This is a wonderful family destination.”
(Individual, Mission Viejo, CA, Comment #79-12)

The National Park Service should build a zoo.

“Things that should be built: - a zoo.”
(Individual, Comment #75-10)

The National Park Service should consolidate visitor facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Have all services (sans gas station) in one building to reduce footprint. Cutting these things back will reduce need for other infrastructure such as sewer...”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-61)

“Visitor services in Tuolumne Meadows are useful to day visitors, guests at the lodge, campers in the campground and especially to backpackers and thru hikers for whom this is a critical re-supply point. Services should be made more walker-friendly by consolidating them near the campground and lodge. The present Visitor center seems little used and should be removed. Information could be provided at other locations.”
(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-12)

“The Tuolumne Meadows gas station, store, and post office should be consolidated to a single location.”
(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-7)

The National Park Service should maintain dispersed visitor facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Keep facilities dispersed! From the summits of most peaks/domes you can NOT see much development. Consolidating structures/parking/services into one central area would create visual impacts, and feel “mall-like.” Tuolumne is wonderful because it is NOT like Yosemite Village.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-208)

“Consolidating services and facilities into fewer, but far larger developed areas, would change Tuolumne Meadows in a negative way. Most long-time return visitors and employees are NOT clamoring for change in Tuolumne! Rather, the countless Tuolumne-philes that I've spoken with this summer would like to "keep it the same... don't change anything!" People love this place, and they do not want a grandiose plan to "improve" Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Comment #181-6)

“Resist the temptation to put all buildings together into a mega-site with a mega-parking lot. Keep the structures separate so that Tuolumne Meadows remains a wide spot on the road rather than a vast tourist mecca. Any new or revised structures should be beautiful.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #123-26)

The National Park Service should screen visitor facilities from the Tioga Road.

“Maintain visitor use contact in a non-obtrusive manner by placing visitor center, store, and lodging, and other sources of visitor contact out of view and secondary to the natural landscape of the area. The natural landscape should be the visitors’ primary source of interpretation, in order to experience this western park in a state of naturalness.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #283-2)

“We are aware many buildings and facilities could be refurbished or redesigned to better accommodate visitors and add to the unique setting of Tuolumne. We encourage the National Park Service to make appropriate improvements to buildings and facilities in an effort to upgrade and/or make less visually intrusive. While we encourage all reconstruction to stay within the current footprint of the existing buildings, we would like to see visually intrusive facilities (e.g.: store and grill) set back from the road and landscaped with native trees—allowing facilities to be

accessible without being eye sores. We also suggest that buildings be modeled to reflect the rustic atmosphere of Tuolumne—not resembling commercial structures.”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-5)

“[W]ould like to see store/“strip” screened from the road, like the Visitor Center – Every building you see detracts from the meadows.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-75)

The National Park Service should maintain seasonal visitor services throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Like seasonal/temporary nature to development/facilities.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-23)

“No increase in lodging, campsites, or other commercial use facilities. Keep them seasonal.”
(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-8)

The National Park Service should recognize that while facilities for visitors have been reduced, park facilities have been increased over the years.

“I have witnessed the Park Service (?) reduce facilities for visitors, but increase their own facilities.”
(Individual, Minden, CA, Comment #96-1)

Campgrounds

Sites in Tuolumne

The National Park Service should develop new campgrounds in the Tuolumne area.

“There should be more campgrounds available.”
(Individual, Arlington, TX, Comment #136-3)

“If I were making the decisions in this regard I would plan for increased usage by camping folk and try to build a few more campgrounds in areas of the meadows that would be least affected by such encroachment. This can be accomplished, as it should, so that the increasing needs of a nature experience by a rising tide of the US population will be able to enjoy the great outdoors.”
(Individual, Comment #133-2)

The National Park Service should avoid developing additional campgrounds in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

“ I do not feel there is a need for another campground. More campgrounds equals more people, more people equal “valley like” conditions.”
(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #205-11)

The National Park Service should expand camping facilities in Tuolumne Meadows as prescribed in the 1980 General Management Plan and in the 2002 Campground Study.

“Indeed, the 1980 Yosemite Park General Management Plan (GMP) calls for increasing the number of campsites in the park and for building new walk-in campsites at Tuolumne.[8] Moreover, as the Access Fund testified at the congressional field hearing on the 2002 Yosemite Parkwide Campground Planning Study (the “Campground Study”), Yosemite has a parkwide shortfall of 1,000 campsites from the number projected for the park in the 1980 Yosemite GMP, with a shortfall of over 100 campsites in the Tuolumne area...Accordingly, in the Plan, the NPS should implement the findings in the 2002 Campground Study in regard to the Highway 120 corridor, which would at least add another 16 infill campsites in existing campgrounds.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-13)

“To ease the annual excess demand for campsites in these regions, the National Park Service should also prioritize allocated funds to all projects that can create more rustic, low-impact/high density campsites along the entire Tioga Road corridor, as suggested by the Out of Valley, Parkwide Campground Study of 2002.”

(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-15)

The National Park Service should coordinate campground planning with the Inyo National Forest and consult the 2002 Campground Study.

“Because of the Tuolumne campsite shortfall and the demand for camping at Tuolumne, the Access Fund supports the implementation of all the areas studied in the 2002 Campground Study. The NPS should also coordinate campground planning with national forests outside the park. In recent years, the Inyo National Forest closed all the informal camping areas along Highway 120 east of the park and along the road to Saddlebag Lake, eliminating about 100 informal overnight parking and camping areas. These actions have increased public demand for camping opportunities inside YNP and this shortage needs to be taken into account in the River Plan and any other YNP planning for new campgrounds.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-19)

The National Park Service should remove of all or some of the campgrounds in Tuolumne.

“Campground should come out; only backpacking.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-146)

“Close some campgrounds. Back packer and bicycle only campers.”

(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #384-3)

The National Park Service should retain the present number of campsites in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“I do not want to see any part of the campground closed...it is full everyday in the summer!”

(Individual, Valencia, CA, Comment #204-7)

“And please don't reduce the number of campsites. (More would be good). You've made it damn near impossible to get into Yos Valley campgrounds. Please don't do the same for Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #301-3)

“Don't increase the number of campsites. Tuolumne Meadows is a high alpine environment that is vulnerable to large amounts of foot traffic. As long-time patrons of the area, we feel that the present number of sites is appropriate to the venue.”

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #259-6)

The National Park Service should reduce the size of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Tuolumne camp is too large. Need smaller camp grounds. Too many people in one place.”

(Individual, Lodi, CA, Comment #280-1)

“Minimize the campground so less traffic comes into the meadow 50% cut in space available.”

(Individual, Comment #324-1)

The National Park Service should increase the number of campsites in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“In short, we support increasing the number of campsites in the greater Tuolumne area especially at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-36)

“The National Park Service must have good records of occupancy at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. I am certain those statistics would support my thought that more sites are needed to serve the number of visitors that would like to use them. This August one or two of our group was in line every morning and frequently back every afternoon to try to garner one of those elusive spots, mostly without success.”

(Individual, Comment #237-4)

“We need to figure out a healthy way to expand Tuolumne Meadows campground to accommodate visitors.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-65)

The National Park Service should improve the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Campgrounds should be cleaned up/updated.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-90)

“ I know development is frowned upon but since the campground area is already established and the Tioga road means it cannot be returned to the wilderness, why not improve the campground for those who do not go far afield and keep the wilderness for those who do? The wilderness is close by and accessible. But the campground needs to serve everyone, not just young, energetic, wilderness lovers.”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #282-2)

“I just returned after staying for the first time in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground. This is one area I would like to see vastly upgraded. That is one of the worst campgrounds I have ever stayed in. I'm all for roughing it, but for a National Park, the facilities are atrocious. No privacy, no electricity in the restrooms. I would like to see our National Park Campgrounds patterned after the Canadian National Parks. Each site is private with distinct areas for fires, eating. They even have firewood cut for you.”

(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #255-1)

The National Park Service should remove the remains of the old Sierra Club campground with the exception of the area at Bruin Baffle.

“Remove any remains of the old Sierra Club campground except Bruin Baffle.”

(Individual, Comment #135-3)

The National Park Service should remove the Delaware North Corporation from campground operations in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Campgrounds: remove DNC from operation.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-8)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts of campgrounds on visitors who don't use them.

“Discuss the role and purpose of campgrounds as support structure for accommodation of the visitor experience for a diverse set of visitors. That is, do campgrounds have a positive or negative impact on the visitors who don't use the campground?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-51)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the adequacy and location of remote campsites in terms of water quality protection.

“Are remote campsites adequate and well located to protect water quality and serve the number of users expected, for example at Lower Lyell CG?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-38)

Campground Design and Character**The National Park Service should retain the existing design of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.**

“Great how campground laid out – 400 campsites, but step a little bit back and you don’t know it’s there.”

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-55)

“There is no other campground where the people are more considerate and respectful of their neighbors. I attribute it to the rustic style of the campground layout. The natural dips and bumps of the roads, the narrow lanes, twists and turns all contribute to traffic calming. Don't change a thing in the campground! Sites are ample with many options. RV's seem to stay on the flatter areas with us tent campers up the hill; D, E.F loops. You might consider charging a premium for A loop.”

(Individual, Comment #147-2)

“I love the campground. I think the layout is fantastic and I love the way it is very large yet you don't feel like you are shoulder to shoulder, or tent to tent, with your neighbor.”

(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #205-9)

The National Park Service should remove campsites close to the river and meadows to reduce negative impacts to resources.

“Retain the Tuolumne Campground and Lodge but remove any campsites or lodging units that are within 150 feet of the river.”

(Individual, Comment #113-13)

“Is there increased impact from camping within 100 feet of designated segments? How can campers be taught to avoid that 100 foot zone if there is adverse impact from camping there?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-70)

“Perhaps revisit regulations for minimum camping distance from Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-41)

The National Park Service should protect camping opportunities near the river.

“...the short version: for us, being able to camp in the campground along the river is so much a part of the magic of Tuolumne, that we would be deeply saddened to see that change...all other changes, or the status quo, are things we can work with.”

(Individual, Comment #215-5)

“I believe that preserving Wild and Scenic Rivers is a good idea, because people like to enjoy the wild and scenic rivers. However, people like to enjoy these scenic rivers in many capacities, including camping near the rivers. I believe it is very important to continue to allow camping near the river because I believe that this is a justified and important way to enjoy the river-at certain designated areas. There is no point in preserving these rivers for the people if the people cannot enjoy them as they like.”

(Individual, Pleasant Hill, CA, Comment #325-1)

The National Park Service should retain campsites along the A loop in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Don't get rid of the A loop!!”
(Individual, Comment #58-1)

“[Keep] The "A" loop: I spent a long time debating the fate of the "A" loop, as several people were talking about a 'threat' to it while we were there this summer. We would feel a huge sense of loss if it were closed. In the end, I think we lose more than we gain if we close it. People from all over the campground come to the river to play and exercise and pray and fish, so closing one loop won't eliminate the most dramatic interactions with the river. I debated suggesting it be a walk-in, tent-only loop. How selfish can I get?! When we were there in July, a middle-aged brother and sister had brought their elderly mother back to the campground she had brought them to when they were children. They helped her to the river. It was a beautiful thing, and I think if we take that away, we do so to our collective detriment.”
(Individual, Comment #215-14)

“A Loop has a loyal group of fans! We are willing to wait all morning for a site with a view of the river and Lumbert Dome, even though the sites might be smaller, more crowded or noisier than those out in F or G loop. Most A Loop fans LOVE and respect the environment and treat it well. Please keep A Loop. Taking away these sites would leave a campground too small for the demand. Yes the area is heavily impacted, but that is the price we pay for making it available and once again, there are still plenty of pristine areas.”
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #282-4)

The National Park Service should eliminate campsites along the A loop in Tuolumne Meadows Campground and make this area open to the public.

“To meet the provisions of Wild and Scenic River legislation, it seems that some campsites in the A-loop will have to be eliminated. In fact the whole A-loop may have to be dramatically redesigned. I am in favor of implementing the provisions of this legislation, while retaining the same number of campsites in the campground.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-2)

“A Loop should be public, like having private property on the coast.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-80)

“Remove riverside campsites in the campground. Some of them are closer to the shore than one would be allowed to camp in the backcountry!”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-244)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address crowding concerns in campgrounds.

“In particular it seems that campgrounds are overused - often by people more concerned with cheap facilities than showing any real respect for the park.”
(Individual, Pelham, NY, Comment #86-2)

“Like that you actually stand a chance of getting a site at campgrounds sometimes – just don't like that it's a congested area.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-24)

“Campgrounds are a bit crowded.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-123)

The National Park Service should consider a design change in Tuolumne Meadows Campground that would result in less congestion and more dispersed, private campsites.

“Tuolumne Meadows campground – space sites further apart (like White Wolf) for increased privacy.”
(Individual, Irvine, CA, Comment #131-2)

“Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds are congested and impacted with overuse. The camping experience could be improved if campground density were reduced by expanding existing sites toward the wilderness boundaries to the south.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-15)

“Re-design the campground to provide a more spacious, less hectic atmosphere.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-10)

The National Park Service should redesign the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to better accommodate Recreational Vehicles (RVs).

“Make RV sites easier to access by slanting site driveways better and improve the need for very sharp turns. If fewer sites for RVs, that is fair because they may take more room. Also, limiting length is appropriate with present campground configuration. (Ex: 30”).”
(Individual, Comment #109-2)

The National Park Service should develop a campground designed specifically for Recreational Vehicle-users.

“Build a separate RV campground. Where is a major issue. Assuming limit of, say, 25 sites, is there space South of the present area, fairly close to the river? How about expanding in the Horse camp area ? Near the wilderness permit/parking area?”
(Individual, Comment #109-3)

The National Park Service should limit the number and size of Recreational Vehicles (RVs) that enter the park and use the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Large RV sites over 25 feet should be removed from the campground. This kind of camping is not a valid use in a national park where people are trying to reconnect with the natural environment. RV’s require additional resources such as road improvements that detract from the wilderness connection for others. They pollute the air and the noise of operation interferes with natural sounds. Low gas mileage is a waste of resources that should not be encouraged by the park service.”
(Individual, Comment #150-1)

“I’d like to see RVs eliminated. Since that is highly unlikely, their numbers and size should be reduced. The campground should not be changed to accommodate them.”
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-28)

“Limit the size of motor homes that can use the TM campground. A motor home as big as a boxcar trailing a Hummer does not belong in TM.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-11)

The National Park Service should designate separate sections for tent and Recreational Vehicle (RV) campers in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“[T]ents and RVs are less than perfect neighbors. Suggestions: Designate separate sections for each.”
(Individual, Comment #109-1)

“I believe that the Tuolumne Meadows campground should be maintained and that there should be a separation between those who tent camp and large motorhomes and trailers. Perhaps even in separate facilities. I think that the large boxes and noisy generators are not compatible with those who are trying to enjoy a true camping experience.”

(Individual, Santa Monica, CA, Comment #127-2)

“Would like to see RVs either prohibited in campground, or a loop designated just for them- they come to have a primitive camping experience and this is not possible with RVs on either side of them blasting their generators.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-31)

The National Park Service should consider prohibiting generator use or restricting it to certain areas.

“Have a “no generator campground”.”
(Individual, Claremont, CA, Comment #229-12)

“Why not have some electric sites and ban generators?”
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #301-12)

“Don't allow RVs with generators in campground (provide isolated space for those with generators).”
(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-10)

The National Park Service should consider redesigning the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to better handle traffic flow.

“The campground should have multiple separate entrances, minimizing traffic and pollution along the more populated campground loops.”
(Individual, Jackson, CA, Comment #13-11)

“Find a smoother way for campers to enter and exit the campground, so that they are not constantly wasting time and gas standing in line at the check-in booth. There should be no booth at all. A USFS-style fee envelope system would be a major improvement.”
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-10)

“Traffic flow through the campground might be improved if an additional exit point were established near the west end. A shuttle bus stop in that area might encourage more bus and less car travel by eliminating the long walk to the store.”
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-11)

The National Park Service should address parking issues in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“The Tuolumne campground could use some attention. In particular, people seemed to park just about anywhere.”
(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #166-2)

The National Park Service should consider creating paths through the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to facilities and destinations.

“Paths to facilities/destinations could be developed to clarify to pedestrians how to go/get there without cutting through campsites.”
(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-12)

The National Park Service should remove fencing around campsites in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“NO FENCES around campsites.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-33)

The National Park Service should consider recreating campsites above the A loop restroom in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

Campsites above the “new-style” restroom in A-loop. These sites were on a large (relatively) flat shelf and should be easy to recreate.”

(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-9)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the condition of the back loops in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Back loops in campground are rough campsite surrounded by lush green vegetation.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-69)

The National Park Service should designate a Sierra Club section of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Would like to see a Sierra Club campground in order to stay with people who care. Perhaps different kinds of areas within the campground.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-88)

Types of Campsites (e.g., tent-only, walk-in, drive-in, RV)

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING THE STOCK/HORSE CAMP IN TUOLUMNE MEADOWS CAMPGROUND, SEE ‘STOCK USE – STOCK CAMPS AND STABLES’, PAGE 208.

The National Park Service should retain the existing mix of different types of campsites in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“The drive-in campgrounds for RVs and other vehicles are definitely appropriate as they exist. This does not mean adding ones out in the meadows where it would be inappropriate.”

(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-5)

“There's a good mix of tent and RV sites.”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #301-6)

“I think the campground should continue to be available for predominantly tents, and small RV units (such as tent trailers and campers on pickup trucks).”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #382-4)

The National Park Service should accommodate only tent camping in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Tent camping only at Tuolumne Campgrounds. RV restricted to Crane Flat.”

(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #116-1)

“NO big motor homes and trailers. The campground should be tent only. We are here to enjoy nature not to watch T.V. with satellite dishes.”

(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #368-6)

The National Park Service should increase the number of walk-in campsites in Tuolumne.

“I would like to see more primitive, free or inexpensive, walk-in camping and less drive-to camping. A self registration (“iron ranger”) system should be used if fee collection (bad), food storage education (good), or usage

tracking are found to require some sort of registration system. ...An ample supply of walk-in camping would be valuable in many ways. Walk-in camping provides a more peaceful experience since there are not cars driving through the area, and the area will be cleaner. There is less impact on the land and less permanent structure requirements. The camping can be more dense, more campers can be accommodated in less space.”
(Individual, Comment #115-3)

“Visitors’ overnight experiences that foster the most direct relationship with park resources should be accorded the highest priority in park planning, while those that foster the least direct relationship with park resources should be accorded the lowest priority. Thus, in considering visitors’ overnight experiences for the Tuolumne Plan the NPS should prioritize backcountry camping first, followed in order by walk-to and walk-in campsites, drive-in campsites, RV camping, and finally rustic lodging like Tuolumne Lodge.[12] In the Tuolumne Plan this can be achieved by expanding the number of walk-in sites at the Tuolumne Campground while reducing the number of RV sites. Using this prioritization hierarchy could allow YNP to reduce impacts to the river corridor at Loop A while maintaining the same number of campsites in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-17)

“Tuolumne Meadows Campground: Convert much of the drive-in campground to walk-in camping. Make walk-in camping available not only to backpackers with wilderness permits, but also to others staying one night or multiple nights...The present Tuolumne Meadows Campground is an unattractive RV-car camper slum. Converting much of the existing campground to walk-in camping would accommodate more visitors in a smaller area with less impact.”
(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-21)

The National Park Service should increase the number of drive-in campsites in Tuolumne.

“Accessible campsites, need to double drive-in sites. Double camp areas for backpackers along the ‘river’ from top to bottom (east to west).”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-30)

The National Park Service should retain vehicle-accessed campsites in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“PLEASE, DO NOT ELIMINATE ANY VEHICLE and RV CAMPGROUNDS/CAMP SITES (as you have done in Yosemite Valley).”
(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-4)

“Do not eliminate any camp sites involving vehicles and RVs.Thanks!”
(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-13)

The National Park Service should reduce the number of Recreational Vehicle (RV)-accessible campsites in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Would like to see fewer spaces/availability for large RVs in the campground.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-10)

“Remove Large RV sites from the campground. I feel the large RV sites reserved for 27 and 35 ft motor homes should be removed from the campground. This kind of camping is not a valid use in a national park where people are trying to reconnect with the natural environment. They require additional resources such as road improvements that detract from the wilderness connection for others.”
(Individual, Comment #134-2)

“Limit the number of full hook-up campsites to the current number to maintain the rustic nature of camping in this area.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #283-14)

The National Park Service should increase the number of Recreational Vehicle (RV)-accessible sites in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Have more for RVs (not just 3 or 4 here and there).”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-69)

“What is most disturbing is the limited spaces for RVs and then they are issued out to: pup tents, tents in general, and tent trailers. Why?”

(Individual, Chula Vista, CA, Comment #212-2)

The National Park Service should increase campsites for low-income visitors in Tuolumne.

“More camping spots for low income visitors.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-74)

The National Park Service should open use of the D loop in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to parties other than the Yosemite Association (YA).

“Loop D: I am a life member of YA. As such I have enjoyed many Field Seminars and over the years participated on 5 backcountry work Trips. YA enjoys a franchise of Loop D that I believe needs to be re-examined. I would eliminate YA’s franchise and dedicate 2 group sites (A & B) until a permanent arrangement can be put in place. Maybe a small campground could be developed west of Elizabeth Creek, which would be dedicated to YA – with their own entrance, restroom, etc.”

(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-7)

“D-Loop has more space for camping; why is it only used for Yosemite Association volunteers?”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-25)

The National Park Service should provide campsites for Pacific Crest Trail/John Muir Trail through-hikers.

“As a thru hiker it would also be nice to see a communal tent for thru-hikers. Sleeping off the ground for one night is quite a treat!”

(Individual, Annapolis, MD, Comment #380-2)

“Also, a few tents should be made available for thru-hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail/John Muir Trail for a reasonable cost/or the campground should be free of charge for one night.”

(Individual, Clifton, NJ, Comment #394-4)

Campground Facilities**The National Park Service should maintain primitive facilities in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.**

“Would like the campground to be extremely primitive.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-37)

“I would want the Tuolumne Meadows campground to remain (as it was 50 years ago) in its un-spoiled condition...that is no water, no RV hook-ups, no RV dump sites, no asphalt-covered roads...just little trails up the hillside where one camper can get away from seeing any other camper. Leave the half dozen or so picnic tables at the “formal” camp sites along the river... we made do without them (brought our own) when camping at our more secluded, and somewhat private camp sites.”

(Individual, Townsend, MT, Comment #32-5)

“The Access Fund supports less developed campgrounds that serve climbers and other backcountry visitors to Yosemite’s high country. As we have pointed out in the past, climbers and backpackers are able to use smaller, less-developed walk-in campgrounds without paved roads and running water. There exist a number of locations in YNP where such campgrounds could be developed, including along Highway 120 in the Tuolumne Meadows high country and along the old Tioga Road alignment leading to May Lake.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-18)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address needed upgrades to the restrooms in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“I’d love it if some of the campground bathrooms were fixed up.”

(Individual, Portsbo, WA, Comment #459-4)

“On 23rd at Tuolumne Meadows, we found again that washrooms were less than we expected. The toilets were unlit, taps did not remain on, and in one instance a WC was over-flowing. Also the warning about the water being unsafe for consumption made the washrooms near C loop an unpleasant place to visit. We have been camping at state parks such as Castle Crags and Washburne and they had far better facilities, including showers. Given Yosemite’s status as a state park, we were to believe that standards would be higher.”

(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #363-2)

“Having stayed 2 nights in Yosemite National Park. I am a little disappointed in the camping facilities. The toilets at Tuolumne Meadows campground were in a word disgusting. There were no lights and they were flowing with excrement. The toilets in Crane Flats were just as bad as they were Portalooos. We had nothing to wash in and were advised against bathing in the only tap provided. I could have camped in the wild for free and would have had just as comfortable a night. Having stayed at campsites in Oregon (State Parks with less funding) I was left a little bit annoyed. These State Parks are much better equipped as they have showers and lights in the toilets and they are cheaper to stay in. If I went to the Park Plaza Hotel I wouldn’t expect it to cost the same as a Motel 6.”

(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #365-1)

The National Park Service should provide showers in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Would like to see showers added to Tuolumne Meadows campground.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-20)

“SHOWERS: It is not realistic to expect campers and backpackers to go to the lodge office and pay \$4, then take their showers between 12 and 3—especially when nobody’s enforcing. At the same time, it’s not fair for Lodge guests who are paying \$85 dollars to have to wait in large queues for a shower. Also, the shower floors get very nasty. Still, the showers should be a little tough to get to so they’re not overused like they’d be if they were in all the camp bathrooms. A few ideas: Install a big multi-shower room (like in school locker rooms) with a big changing room slightly removed. This is more sanitary and efficient-- people don’t have to wait for people to change to get into the shower. Leave one or 2 private stalls for modest people. Make all the showers coin-operated (Lodge guests could receive tokens) to control time and offset the expense. Install a shower house in the bathroom by the store and grill following the guidelines from above.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-9)

“One of the things that has been frustrating to me for over 40 years is the lack of a good system for hot showers. The current system of 12 noon to 3pm is basically worthless for those who want to enjoy hiking the trails. It is extremely inconvenient. A better shower system needs to be set up. I am willing to pay money (\$4-\$8 a shower) or feed quarters into a box buying so many minutes of hot water. This need for a better shower system may not be visible to park staff because they have their own shower access. Suppose that Rangers and employees were restricted to showering between noon and 3pm? They would not tolerate it. This largely invisible problem needs to be addressed. Thank you for providing this opportunity for input.”

(Individual, Fortuna, CA, Comment #426-1)

The National Park Service should provide electricity and lighting in campground restrooms.

“Electricity (lights & a plug) in the bathrooms would be a nice luxury.”

(Individual, Mission Viejo, CA, Comment #79-10)

“Add lights and electric outlets to all bathrooms.”

(Individual, Irvine, CA, Comment #131-3)

“Light and heat in campground bathrooms would make a lot of people happy.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-38)

The National Park Service should retain the rustic campground restroom facilities.

“I do not believe that amenities such as bathroom lighting and hot showers should be considered for the campground.”

(Individual, Santa Monica, CA, Comment #127-3)

“It is not necessary to have heat and light in the campground restrooms. Rustic is enduring.”

(Individual, Irvine, CA, Comment #266-30)

The National Park Service should provide restrooms in Tuolumne Meadows Campground that are compliant with guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Consider upgrading or repairing some of the ancient restrooms in Tuolumne Meadows Campground so as to provide night-time lighting inside and out, and handicapped accessibility.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-8)

The National Park Service should replace Tuolumne Meadow Campground toilets with low-flow toilets.

“Replace campground and other toilets with low flow toilets to reduce water used and reduce waste treatment requirements. Install a 'grey water' system to use untreated water in the toilets to reduce the volume of drinking water treatment needed.”

(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-8)

The National Park Service should replace existing restrooms with buildings that mimic historic architecture.

“Also in the campground, restore and retain the 1930s-era stone and timber restrooms. Replace the disgusting 1950s-era blockhouse restrooms with new ones patterned on the model of the historical bathrooms from the thirties.”

(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-11)

“Last, I would suggest upgrading some facilities, such as the campground restrooms. Some of these are beautiful on the outside and appalling on the inside. Leaving their historic character intact while upgrading the plumbing would offer a much more positive visitor experience, while not harming the place.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-34)

“Further improvements would include upgrading existing “mission 66” style restrooms to aesthetically acceptable architectural standards.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-15)

The National Park Service should provide dishwashing facilities in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Finally, as each camper comes to the Tuolumne Campground they should be issued a dishwashing bucket (\$10 deposit) with instructions how to use it. This should be done at the Kiosk in front of the children in the car. This will massively reduce the dumping of dishwater and food particle near the river. The total cost for 1000 very nice wide shallow buckets with handles would be \$2000.00”

(Individual, Palmdale, CA, Comment #161-6)

“It would be useful to have dishwashing facilities at the toilets. The current requirements are difficult for campers and thus often ignored. This results in food particles and soapy water being discarded on the soil.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #312-1)

“Upgrade water, sewer and dishwashing facilities.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-12)

The National Park Service should encourage use of biodegradable soap at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Encourage use of biodeg. soap at campground.”

(Individual, Washington DC, Comment #358-2)

The National Park Service should repair the water spigots in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Please repair Tuolumne campground water faucet system”

(Individual, Newman, CA, Comment #331-1)

“Provide more water spigots in campground.”

(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-16)

“It would be nice if the water spigots had a larger rock drainage around them (some don't have any) [in campground].”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-11)

The National Park Service should improve the condition of roads in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Campground - This is a disgrace to the NPS - the road through the campground is terrible, most of the sites are difficult to get into - very few are level for RV's. Take out a few trees and rocks to make things easier to navigate through the campground.”

(Individual, Cottonwood, CA, Comment #30-4)

“Widen and pave major roads in TM campground - remove trees as necessary (the ones which have been run into - they're obvious) - Do not mess with the campsites! Just fix/widen roads to facilitate large vehicles and 2 way traffic.”

(Individual, Ridgecrest, CA, Comment #374-2)

“Repair roads in campground and in Park in general.”

(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-1)

The National Park Service should leave roads unpaved and unimproved in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Not improving the campground SLOWS PEOPLE DOWN.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-83)

“Campground: Do not pave the road. The campground should maintain its rustic feel.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-21)

“The poor road conditions in the campground are good because people drive slower and the area is safer.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-27)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the need for more recycling stations throughout Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Add more recycling stations.”

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-6)

The National Park Service should increase capacity and convenience of food storage bear boxes in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Add more food storage boxes to the Tuolumne Meadows group campsites.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #144-4)

“My last comment for improving the campground would be to increase the size of the bear boxes. When you consider that many campsites are being shared by friends and therefore easily six adults could be sharing a bear box – they are too small. I would suggest boxes the size of those found at the Ellery Lake Campground would be much better. All the campers I have met have been following the rules and guidelines for bear box use.”

(Individual, Comment #237-7)

“Make it easier to comply with bear rules; put bear box near table; bear box depth makes loading and unloading difficult/cumbersome (especially if you have food for a week) ...the easier it is to access stuff the more likely we will keep our food locked up at all times ... bear box lock - make it safer so it cannot smash fingers.”

(Individual, Claremont, CA, Comment #229-14)

The National Park Service should replace the aging campground tables with similar-sized ones.

“The tables are falling apart [in the campground] - please, some new tables.”

(Individual, Cottonwood, CA, Comment #30-5)

Camping Reservation System**The National Park Service should recognize the need for camping opportunities that are available on short notice.**

“Would like to have place to camp in park on short notice.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-70)

“Currently it is common for visitors to be traveling through Tuolumne and unable to camp there because the meadows campground is full. The visitor may be from another state or country and be unaware of the reservation system, or may be traveling on a flexible schedule which makes reservation inconvenient or impossible. The same holds true for many people from in-state who due to their work schedules may not be able to plan ahead. I like the idea of keeping a good proportion of sites first-come first-served, but I think the ample provision of primitive walk-in

camping would work even better in terms of not being forced to turn people away. If they really want to camp and they are willing to walk a short distance they can find a place to camp.”
(Individual, Comment #115-9)

The National Park Service should improve the reservations system for camping and lodging in Tuolumne.

“Improve reservations systems for lodging and camping.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-73)

“The registration system design should prevent time-consuming interactions with campground host at a kiosk. This serves visitors better; it's a very negative experience when you have to wait in line behind the tailpipe of a large RV just to enter or exit the campground. I imagine it's not a very fun job for the person in the kiosk either.”
(Individual, Comment #115-7)

“Simplify reservation system.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting Comment #120-31)

The National Park Service should maintain the current reservation policy for Tuolumne Meadows Campground whereby half the campsites may be reserved and half are on a first come, first served basis.

“First-come, first serve nature of campground is great.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-57)

“Absolutely keep 50% of the campground first-come first-serve!!”
(Individual, Comment #217-14)

“Although the reservation system is a little restricting, it is necessary and I can live with it as long as the 1st come 1st serve component remains. Only once was I able to get a reservation. It is impossible for a fulltime working person who can't make personal phone calls or use a computer to access the reservation system. But I've always been able to get a site at Tuolumne Meadows, even if not the first night. Thank you for keeping the campground available to regular working folk.”
(Individual, Springfield, OR, Comment #360-2)

The National Park Service should consider issuing site-specific campground reservations for the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“In the Tuolumne campground, allow visitors to reserve in advance specifically-numbered spaces of their choice.”
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-9)

“Camp sites should be by site specific reservation only with 50% walk in retained.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #179-6)

“Allow users to pre select a campsite when booking reservation.”
(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #316-4)

The National Park Service should maintain the first-come, first-served system for the backpacker's campground at Tuolumne Meadows.

“Keep walk-in first come first serve backpackers campground. It could use a few more sites. People camped between sites when it was full in August.”
(Individual, Placerville, CA, Comment #310-2)

The National Park Service should determine the appropriate capacity for the Tuolumne Meadows Campground and track visitation and vacancy rates.

“Does the campground track vacancy rates throughout the summer?”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-33)

“Appropriate capacity for the current campground needs to be determined. Is it presently too low? Too high?”
(Environmental Organization Fresno, CA, Comment #296-11)

“Tracking-The duration of use for visitors during summer season is two weeks, however, there is no tracking system to comply with this, Many people stay well beyond this time limit but at the same time many people are turned away because the camp is “full”. I think that this is extremely unfair and needs to be remedied as soon as possible. A simple data base management program could take care of this and also enable staff and law enforcement to locate people (campers) as needed.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #312-3)

Other Campground Issues**The National Park Service should consider ways to better designate individual campsites in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.**

“Please re-label campsites.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #403-2)

“Clearly delineate boundaries between campsites to discourage trespassing.”
(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-15)

The National Park Service should improve signage in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Backpackers arriving at the campsite off the JM Trail enter off the path at the back of the site. There is no indication there of where to go. Walking round a campsite carrying a 40 lb rucksack at the end of a hard days walking is not a pleasant experience. Suggestion: provide maps indicating location of walk on site at all entrances, not just the car entrance.”
(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #59-1)

“Better signs and trail markers within the campground would keep people from trampling the whole area.”
(Individual, Manhattan Beach, CA, Comment #227-5)

“Need better signage in campground. You can’t tell what is the road and what is a campsite.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-25)

The National Park Service should provide a notice board at the entrance to the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“A notice board (well lit) at the campground entrance, which already outlines the responsibilities, privileges and facilities for visitors.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #312-2)

The National Park Service should provide weather warnings and advisories at the entrances to campgrounds.

"I would also like to suggest posting weather warnings or advisories at the entrances to campsites. Having camped for the past two weeks, we have had little access to local media and therefore did not know that an August morning in Tuolumne can be in the minus figures! Posting such information may benefit other campers in the future by advising them of cold nights, helping them to prepare."

(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #363-3)

The National Park Service should remove campfire rings from the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

"Please add fire pit ash cans and large dumpster for ashes for the 300+ campground fire rings in each campsite that currently rarely get serviced."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #403-4)

"Fire pits should be removed and fires forbidden except in designated community areas - similar to the campfire circle at Tuolumne Lodge. These should have wood provided and some supervision and rules. Cutting down on wood-cutting/gathering and smoking up the air should be discouraged."

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-9)

"What kind of services or facilities would you like to see offered, improved or removed? Fire rings taken out of the meadows campground."

(Individual, Comment #6-4)

The National Park Service should address ground condition and cover at campsites in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

"We stayed at the Tuolumne campsite while there was rapid yet fairly strong thunder-storm. We found our tents were covered by quite an amount of mud afterwards. Perhaps some dry shredded weeds on the ground would be a good idea to prevent that?"

(Individual, Menlo Park, CA, Comment #71-1)

"Putting wood chips in camp spaces is nice, as it cuts down on dust."

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-7)

"Campsites need to be resurfaced so sites are flat and even."

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #124-15)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the dust problem in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

"It'd be nice if there was a way to keep the dust down in the campground."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-123)

"The campground experience is unnecessarily impaired by dust from the poor road. The roads should be paved. The sites should also have work where needed to make the pull-ins and tent pads reasonably level."

(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #425-6)

"The campground roads should be made dust free and have many dips to control speed and regulate runoff."

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #179-3)

The National Park Service should consider increasing campground fees for Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Raise the fees to match those of California state campgrounds to help pay for the shower, road maintenance and ranger program.”

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #259-5)

The National Park Service should consider reducing campground fees for Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Reduce fees for nightly stays.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-32)

“The campsite fee of \$20 is exorbitant - anywhere else you would expect hot water/showers for that fee. Furthermore, it is discriminatory to those that are in small groups, ie some one by themselves pays \$20 a night!! A fair and non-discriminatory system would be to pay per person/night eg \$20 divided by 6 person site limit = \$3.50 per person per night.”

(Individual, Australia, Comment #443-2)

The National Park Service should consider a campground fee range that is based on the length and number of vehicles per site.

“Consider a fee range based on length and number of vehicles--something private campgrounds do as a matter of course. Giant RVs impose on the campground a lot more than conventionally-sized vehicles, and they usually represent more affluent patrons. It seems quite reasonable to charge accordingly. But by the same token, RVs benefit greatly from level campsites, since they need to level their vehicles for comfort and to run propane refrigerators. It would be nice to grad more campsites to provide a more level base for such vehicles. Even our 17 ft. Eurovan Camper needs to be leveled to use its refrigerator. Yes, we're violating the something-for-nothing mentality of so many people in saying this, but I think higher fees are the only way to justify what we're asking for here. And graduating them still gives room for those with modest means to come and enjoy Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #259-5)

The National Park Service should charge visitors for vehicle entry and exit into and out of Tuolumne Meadows Campground to reduce automobile use in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Charge for each exit/entry to cg. Some people drive 100 yds to store.”

(Individual, Bonita CA, Comment #427-8)

The National Park Service should keep at least a portion of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground open as long as possible each year.

“At least a portion of the campground should be open from as soon as possible after the Tioga Road is open in June through Columbus Day weekend. For many years, that was the norm.”

(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-11)

“I would like to see the campground stay open later in the year if possible. I usually make my annual visit to the Meadows in late September, and the campground is often closed already, meaning that auto travel to other campgrounds is necessary, with travel back to the Meadows the next day for hiking.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #295-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address campground hours for the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Close [campground] at some night hour. No entry allowed after that.”

(Individual, Bonita, CA, Comment #427-9)

The National Park Service should recognize the value of having campground volunteers.

"I appreciate the volunteers who assist at the campground."
(Individual, Comment #147-6)

The National Park Service should consider appropriate staffing needs to patrol and supervise the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

"Campgrounds supervised by park rangers."
(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #209-8)

"Rangers used to patrol campgrounds nightly - on foot or horse - educating visitors, as well as enforcing rules and giving the park's campers easy access to knowledgeable staff. The campground hosts may be nice people, but in my experience they are not equipped to handle campground problems, nor to answer questions about hiking trails, backcountry, ecology - as the rangers can."
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #213-5)

"Have a host who stops nighttime music, etc. In campground."
(Individual, Placerville, CA, Comment #310-4)

The National Park Service should address enforcement of campground rules and regulations throughout Tuolumne.

"Enforcement of camp rules re 10:00 pm curfew."
(Individual, Redding, CA, Comment #436-2)

The National Park Service should regulate and enforce maximum numbers of campers and vehicles allowed per site in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

"Enforce the limit on the number of cars and people per site."
(Individual, Comment #217-15)

"Rules about the number of campers and vehicles per site are not being enforced. The sites are often over-used, the footprint of the sites are expanding, vehicles are parking on vegetation, the noise level generally goes up with more people."
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-24)

The National Park Service should limit the maximum length of stay for campsites along the river's edge in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

"Campsites to be drive-in with 7 night stays max at river's edge."
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-76)

The National Park Service should disallow camping and cooking in Tuolumne Meadows.

"...disallow camping and cooking in the meadows area itself. Otherwise, the area will be trashed with paper, Styrofoam cups, plates and whatever, empty cans and bottles and probably dirty diapers!"
(Individual, La Crescenta, CA, Comment #252-4)

The National Park Service should provide firewood for campers and prohibit wood gathering.

"Provide firewood (for a fee) and do not allow wood gathering. Wood decomposition is essential for a healthy environment. It also looks more natural to have fallen wood around campground."
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-16)

“Campers should not be allowed to pick up wood. Down and dead wood is important to the health of the forest.”
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-22)

“Cut down standing dead trees and make wood available for individual campfires in campground only-minor charge.”
(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-3)

Camping Outside of Tuolumne

The National Park Service should consider allowing summer camping at Badger Pass Ski Area.

“Also, why isn't the Badger Pass ski area used for camping in the summer?”
(Individual, Comment #162-5)

The National Park Service should address needed improvements to the Crane Flat Campground.

“We stayed at Crane Flat on Aug. 22nd and were surprised that the washroom facilities on 3 loop were out of order. The porta-potty replacements were adequate, however there were no hand-washing sinks, meaning that campers had to use a faucet that had an advisory against bathing.”
(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #363-1)

The National Park Service should restore the Rivers Campgrounds in Yosemite Valley.

“Restore Rivers Campgrounds!!!! Restore Rivers Campgrounds!!!!”
(Individual, Comment #139-14)

“Open Rivers Campgrounds by the Merced River.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-71)

The National Park Service should improve the reservations system for camping in Yosemite Valley.

“We have had a hard time getting a site in the Valley in April or May. I call 5 months ahead but the last 2 years they have been full. I wonder when people call to get a site. We miss staying in the Valley.”
(Individual, Brea, CA, Comment #431-6)

The National Park Service should improve the bear boxes in the Camp 4 Campground.

“[M]any of the Camp 4 bear boxes have got five approximately 1" holes in the bottom. One hole in the middle and one in each corner. There are mice that have figured this out and climb through these holes to get into people's food. Not only is it disgusting and unsanitary since mice defecate and urinate while they eat, but it really makes me mad to find that my properly locked food is ruined from mice. Also it is unhealthy for the little rodents. I've tried to cover the holes with duct tape or keep a plastic box over the holes when staying there, but as you know animals are persistent. Are there any plans to cap these holes?”
(Individual, Everett, WA, Comment #108-6)

Lodging

The National Park Service should expand accommodations and lodging opportunities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Things that should be built: - could be great with some huts (for holidays and vacations).”
(Individual, Comment #75-12)

“Make more accommodations for the ordinary family who wants to use the area. Safe for kids, affordable, comfortable accommodations, parking, etc.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-42)

“I recognize that the restricted seasonal access makes the economics of lodging there more challenging, but snow restrictions still permit operation of high quality, short season lodging at such parks as Yellowstone. While an Ahwahnee replica is hardly reasonable, something along the reduced lines of the earlier Marriott (now under Park control) at the South end of the park might be possible. Any effort to shift activity off the Valley floor to other areas of the Park is desirable, and providing reasonable lodging at Tuolumne would moderate traffic on the Tioga Road because a daily return to the valley floor would no longer be required. I recognize that this viewpoint is likely to be in conflict with the general environmental community. I maintain however that the Park needs to be accessible for more than backpackers, and that tasteful lodging at Tuolumne Meadows would contribute to that goal.”
(Individual, Comment #198-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include no additional lodging in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Do not build more permanent hotel/motel accommodations in the Meadows.”
(Individual, Saratoga, CA, Comment #156-3)

“Additional lodging in the way of motels, hotels, or the like is inappropriate.”
(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-10)

“I would be heartbroken if there was ever a “hotel” built in TM. That to me, would forever detrimentally change the culture of TM. Because this area is only open for part of the year, I feel the “politicians” could afford to keep the hotels in the valley.”
(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #205-12)

The National Park Service should remove the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“I see no reason to have a “Lodge” in Tuolumne Meadows with its cabins and other developments.”
(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-6)

“Tuolumne Lodge should not be there – same commercial service is provided 15m down the road.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, CA, Comment #121-22)

“The other improvement I would suggest would be to close the Tuolumne Lodge. Camping creates less of an impact while giving people a chance to see the park up close.”
(Individual, Whittier, CA, Comment #254-5)

The National Park Service should retain and protect Tuolumne Meadows Lodge for the enjoyment of park visitors.

“WANT TO KEEP LODGE IN AREA for the diversity it provides in lodging options.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, CA, Comment #146-43)

“Tuolumne Meadows and the Lodge are treasures! Please preserve their functional use so the future people and families can experience the outstanding pleasures and learning that I have been privileged to enjoy.”
(Individual, Phoenix, AZ, Comment #322-5)

“One of the extraordinary advantages of the current infrastructure at Tuolumne Meadows and Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is that the facilities do not exclude ordinary citizens, the elderly, and the disabled while still attempting to minimize their impact on the environment. Tent cabins at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge with adjacent shower and bathroom facilities and eating facilities allow ordinary citizens including the disabled and the elderly to enjoy the

beauty of Tuolumne Meadows. To eliminate those facilities, or reduce the number, or size of those facilities would relegate Tuolumne Meadows to a place where only the physically elite could enjoy the Meadows. To me, that would be in direct violation of the mission of the National Park.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #351-2)

The National Park Service should update and improve the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“The Tuolumne lodge should be updated as well.”

(Individual, Calabasas, CA, Comment #278-5)

“With regard to infrastructure, some facilities need to be improved. The shower and restroom facilities at Tuolumne Meadows need to be upgraded. New technologies exists which would allow for the improvement of facilities while reducing the impact on the environment. The use of solar technology and bathroom facilities like those that exist Vogelsang High Sierra Camp could reduce the environmental impact in Tuolumne Meadows while improving infrastructure.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #351-4)

“Add another 10-20 tents at the Lodge. There are too many heart broken souls who cannot get reservations - myself included. But keep it basically as it is. Let the employees be - as they are - the cream of humankind - filled with gracious intelligence & desire to please. Do not let this Lodge be corporatized, & called DNC. It is just about perfect.”

(Individual, San Rafael, CA, Comment #92-6)

The National Park Service should consider reconstruction of the dining area of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to resemble the area where the Sierra Club used to dine.

“Reconstruct the dining area to resemble the area where the Sierra Club used for their meals.”

(Individual, Comment #135-12)

The National Park Service should retain the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge Dining Hall.

“Retain the Tuolumne Lodge Dining Hall.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-14)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address deferred maintenance of Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“Concerned with integrity of the Lodge - too much deferred maintenance.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-115)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess whether the operation of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is an appropriate use of the meadows.

“The NPS should look closely to see if Tuolumne Meadows Lodge is an appropriate use/operation for the meadows.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-38)

The National Park Service should provide simple accommodations for thru-hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail/John Muir Trail at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“Please provide accommodations in 1 tent cabin for walk in Pacific Crest Trail/John Muir Trail hikers to be filled with 4 people without cars at Tuolumne Lodge.”

(Individual, Seattle, WA, Comment #398-1)

Building Design

The National Park Service should maintain the existing tent cabins and rustic building design of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge and other accommodations in Tuolumne.

“Regarding the Lodge tent cabins, we vote 100% for keeping them.”
(Individual, Comment #109-4)

“Keep Tuolumne Meadows Lodge as it is—seasonal tent cabins plus the main tent lodge. This is historic, and provides the drive-in visitor with the feeling of being at more isolated places such as Vogelsang or Glen Aulin.”
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-4)

“The seasonal, overnight canvas tent facilities at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge should remain temporary. Constructing hard sided permanent overnight structures at Tuolumne Meadows Lodge as some suggest would encourage year round use requiring a greatly expanded permanent support infrastructure that is not in keeping with the historical seasonal use of the Tuolumne Meadows area. Maintaining the temporary nature of Tuolumne Meadows Lodge will obviate future efforts to open the area to extended seasons and year round use that would be an environmental disaster for the area. To many the temporary white canvass tent structures are visually very unattractive. A color other than white might significantly mitigate the visual impact of these seasonal structures to the outstanding scenic qualities of the Tuolumne Meadows area. Other mitigating ideas are welcome.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-14)

Room Design and Amenities

The National Park Service should provide adequate firewood in Tuolumne Meadows Lodge cabins.

“Also - at Lodge - nights have been cold & firewood allowed per cabin has shrunk from a nicely packed box of wood & kindling to approx. 3-4 logs & a fire starter or 2. It is unfair to campers to have to freeze all night.”
(Individual, San Rafael, CA, Comment #92-8)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the adequacy of restroom facilities at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“The women's toilet facilities for Tuolumne Meadows Lodge are inadequate. More toilets are needed. There shouldn't be lines of women waiting during even the busiest part of the season.”
(Individual, Comment #167-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the adequacy of the shower facilities at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“Make showers at Tuolumne Lodge available during morning and afternoon hours. Provide unlimited showers during stay for one flat rate, in connection w/#3.”
(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #316-3)

“Tuolumne Meadows Lodge needs more showers! Build new one for lodge guests, keep old one for campers only and hours could be extended.”
(Individual, Comment #362-1)

“Build a better bath house at TM Lodge.”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-3)

The National Park Service should maintain the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge tent cabins without electricity.

“No electricity in the tent cabins, please.”
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #433-3)

Site Design and Landscaping

The National Park Service should relocate those elements of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge that are close to the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Move the parts of TM lodge near river away from river (i.e., employee housing/parking, kitchen).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-61)

“Lodge kitchen and dining tent moved away from river or have extremely tight regulations to prevent river contaminating and paint chips.”
(Individual, Comment #20-8)

“I support whatever changes need to be made to comply with Wild and Scenic River legislation. It seems – at a minimum – this would require: Removal of the current kitchen, restaurant, reception, lobby functions.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-14)

The National Park Service should keep Tuolumne Meadows Lodge facilities dispersed and well-screened from Tuolumne Meadows.

“Facilities such as the lodge and stables are pretty well out of sight and don't give a visual impression of crowding.”
(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-3)

The National Park Service should consolidate the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge into one or more buildings located on the north side of the parking lot.

“I think the Lodge functions could be replaced with one or more buildings located behind where the bear boxes are now located on the north side of the parking lot.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-16)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the adequacy and landscaping elements of the parking area for the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“Is TM Lodge adequate for the parking and vice versa? Could a few trees be placed within the otherwise bleak Lodge parking area, which is within the scenic river zone?”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-14)

The National Park Service should adhere to environmental standards that protect the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River when determining the appropriate footprint for the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“The [High Sierra camp at Tuolumne Meadows] can be “Right Sized” to conform to the highest environmental standards necessary to maintain the pristine condition of the river. The camp location is situated in an area that does not interfere with the meadows and appears to be located in the right site.”
(Individual, Corvallis, OR, Comment #353-11)

The National Park Service should maintain the existing footprint and location of the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“Keep TM Lodge where it is. Do not expand human capacity. Same footprint.”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-2)

High Sierra Camps

The National Park Service should consider removal of the High Sierra Camps from designated Wilderness areas.

“The Park has a serious responsibility to preserve what’s left of a dwindling resource, the High Sierra. To that end, the “High Sierra Camps” at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang must be completely removed. Once removed, these camps must be restored to their natural condition.”

(Conservation Organization, Flagstaff, AZ, Comment #221-2)

“The “High Sierra Camps” at Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang should be removed, the sites restored, and the Glen Aulin and Vogelsang sites should be designated as wilderness, as provided by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.”

(Individual, Missoula, MT, Comment #246-2)

“The Park should take a hard look at the High Sierra Camps in the Tuolumne area and probably close them. They are beyond the reach of the average citizen both in terms of price and probability of getting a reservation. It would be much better to remove them and restore their sites to a natural condition. Their continued operation results in habitat and landscape degradation, pollution from soaps and sewage. In any event, non-wilderness-conforming activities such as non-emergency helicopter access to the camps should be banned.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #295-4)

The National Park Service should maintain operation of the High Sierra Camps and continue to provide this unique experience for visitors.

“Keep the High Sierra Camps – that’s exactly the experience we should be trying to encourage!”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-48)

“Over the years we and our family members have appreciated enormously the opportunity to enjoy the High Sierra Camps. Once again these experiences would be impossible for those like us, without the facilities at the High Camps.”

(Individual, Menlo Park, CA, Comment #165-2)

“The High Sierra Camps are well conceived. They are a form of compromise that allows a taste of a wilderness experience with some comforts and easing of access. Glen Aulin and the HSC in the meadows should be kept. There are plenty of more remote areas in the park and in the Tuolumne area specifically for those who really want to totally get away from ‘civilization’.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-7)

The National Park Service should consider expansion of the High Sierra Camps.

“I think the High Sierra Camps in the back country are a great idea and should be expanded.”

(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-13)

“Extend High Sierra Camps – Make it possible to really explore corridor if not a die-hard backpacker – That is appropriate use of the area.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-104)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the installation of composting toilets at the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp.

“Park superintendent at YA March conference publicly stated that Glen Aulin will get composting toilettes like the ones at Sunrise. Did you know that?”
(Individual, Comment #37-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should specifically address use of the Glen Aulin area.

“Glen Aulin is a special use area that could be addressed within the TMP.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-22)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address management of the High Sierra Camps and the timing of opening and closing each year.

“The High Sierra Camps provide a semi-wilderness experience to a more and more urbanized public. It is a shame they can't be open earlier and later every year.”
(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-5)

The National Park Service should consider removing the Delaware North Corporation from High Sierra Camp operations.

“The back country HSCs need to be pulled back under the control of the National Park Service. Private business should not be operating in the back country; profit motive and protection of natural resources are in conflict. The impact of the camps should be studied and mitigated with the highest priority given to protection of the natural resources.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-11)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address resource impacts resulting from the operation of the High Sierra Camps in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“I feel that the high Sierra camps are not preserving or protecting the natural ecosystem in the high country. The horse traffic, feces, cutting of trees and brush are intrusive to the views/preservation of the area.”
(Individual, Duluth, MN, Comment #172-2)

“The High Sierra Camps are a gross intrusion in the Tuolumne watershed. They ruin the scenery, pollute the water, provide human food sources for wildlife, and the pack train routes to the camps are substantially degraded. The Tuolumne, Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang camps should be closed and removed, the sites naturalized, and the areas recommended as wilderness.”
(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-9)

“The presence of the High Sierra Camps continues to be problematic in Yosemite. Their impacts on water quality, visitor experience and the health of affected high elevation meadows and wetlands are issues. High Sierra Camps in a national park also pose social equity issues and contribute to the cost of necessary trail maintenance from stock use.”
(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-7)

The National Park Service should provide for better maintenance and cleaning of the High Sierra Camps.

“A little cleaner in High Sierra Camps and getting answers from people/No one knows where they are in the system (wilderness reservation system) - not as well maintained as they have been in the past.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-46)

“I'd like to have High Sierra Camps cleaner. Since DNC took over I'm not sure what the High Sierra Camp reservation/cancellation system is all about (how it works).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-89)

The National Park Service should address wastewater treatment concerns at Merced Lake High Sierra Camp.

"I understand that the Plan(s) apply to the Tuolumne River watershed area, yet I feel compelled to add something of concern that is outside of that scope: Merced Lake High Sierra Camp is the largest of the five camps. It is also as close to the Merced River as Glen Aulin is to the Tuolumne. I visited this camp in 2003 and 2004. Serious attention needs to be given to replacing the toilettes and septic system at Merced Lake with a composting or similar system."
(Individual, Comment #37-4)

Reservation Systems

FOR CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS CONCERNS, SEE 'CAMPGROUNDS – CAMPING RESERVATION SYSTEM', PAGE 129.

The National Park Service should upgrade the reservation system for accommodations in Tuolumne by providing online maps.

"Internet - should provide maps to show where accommodation is situated. Telephone service was helpful."
(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #89-5)

The National Park Service should provide online links through the Tuolumne Meadows accommodations reservation system to other internet sites to divert visitors to available park areas.

"Have reservations to the Meadows accommodation on the websites and link to other sites so people can be diverted to use other park areas."
(Individual, Saratoga, CA, Comment #156-5)

The TRP/TMP EIS should clarify where the High Sierra Camps are in the wilderness reservation system.

"No one knows where they (High Sierra Camps) are in the wilderness reservation system."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-47)

The National Park Service should include site specific NEPA compliance for Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp, Vogelsang High Sierra Camp, and the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge in the TRP/TMP EIS planning process.

"In sum, all three of the HSCs discussed above (including the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge) should be subject to site-specific Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) as part of the Tuolumne River/Meadows planning process(es). This has not been done before, and is necessary to illuminate the scope and nature of the substantial environmental impacts of those facilities. Significant issues include, but are not limited to: (1) impaired scenery; (2) degraded trails; (3) pollution of surface and ground waters by sewage and wastewater produced at the HSCs; (4) pollution of surface waters by manure (bacteria, etc.) produced by pack animals that service the camps; (5) harm to wildlife that come in contact with sewage, kitchen/bath wastes, and human food sources; (6) harm to native songbirds due to proliferation of brown-headed cowbirds; etc."
(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-12)

"These issues (impacts from the presence of High Sierra Camps) need to be acknowledged and mitigation identified before a CMP for the Tuolumne River is in place."
(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-8)

National Park Service Services and Facilities

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the adequacy of the existing bear boxes throughout Tuolumne.

“A few more bear boxes, please, at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge parking lot.”
(Individual, Naperville, IL, Comment #152-7)

“Continue to replace older bear boxes with larger ones.”
(Individual, Comment #188-4)

“I have lots of ideas about what we would like to see...bigger bear boxes.”
(Individual, Valencia, CA, Comment #204-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address whether cell phone towers and service are appropriate in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Remove cell phone tower in/from Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-35)

“I advocate that NPS not build any more cellular phone towers in Tuolumne or add more antennae to the existing tower in the middle of Ranger Camp until long-term health effects of these particular radio frequencies are fully understood. Many of us live and work 24 hours a day within close proximity of the tower. The technology is new and not much is yet known about health impacts.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-9)

“I want better/more consistent cell coverage – safety/modern convenience.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-249)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the desire for internet services in Tuolumne.

“Should be expansion of services for people on Pacific Crest Trail (e.g., internet facility).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-18)

“Provide wi-fi and cell service at Visitor Center.”
(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-9)

“Internet access would be nice, prefer Wi-Fi-could be in the vicinity of the Grill.”
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #304-14)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address visitor use of Parsons Memorial Lodge.

“Parsons Lodge should remain open to the public for functions and general access, so long as resources are not impacted.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-1)

“No use of Parson’s Lodge...”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-19)

The National Park Service should provide long-term researchers with access to facilities that have electricity.

“Wish there was a place for long term researchers to have access to electricity.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-26)

The National Park Service should provide facilities for smokers.

“Smoker/Cigarette deposits, perhaps by dumpsters- and/or a designated smoking area.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-46)

The National Park Service should ensure that ‘WAG BAGS’ are available for backcountry travel.

“Ensure that there are “WAG BAGS” in backcountry (non urban travel) (e.g. at Mount Whitney) to containerize human waste.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-9)

The National Park Service should encourage more visitor use of Tenaya Lake.

“I would like to see more activity at Tenaya Lake. It's a beautiful accessible lake that is not being used at all.”
(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #255-2)

Picnic Areas

The National Park Service should improve picnic areas in Tuolumne.

“We stopped for a nice lunch but you don't enough seating. The table with bench is completely off balance.”
(Individual, Hauppauge, NY, Comment #102-1)

“More picnic tables in small areas close to highway.”
(Individual, Newman, CA, Comment #329-1)

“Perhaps benches and small picnic tables could be placed along the river in appropriate places.”
(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-14)

The National Park Service should provide more picnic areas to meet existing visitor needs.

“The present (Tuolumne Meadows store) parking lot should be revegetated and converted to a picnic area with benches and rocks for sitting and looking at the meadow. This would discourage people from walking across the street and trampling the meadow.”
(Individual, Comment #134-6)

“More picnic areas for day people in cars or sitting on ground- maybe at visitor center, if there's room since there's already parking. People don't know where to go to picnic – need larger picnic areas, and need to let people know where they are without babying them and over-managing their trip.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-62)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following recreational values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Preservation of the size and number of picnic areas...In weighing resource impacts versus values, the National Park Service should realize that picnic areas, roadside turnouts, and roadside parking areas are in fact tremendously valuable resources for visitors of all types. They allow people to pause their travels, rest, walk around, appreciate the scenery and fresh air, plus interact and learn from other visitors in spontaneous, serendipitous ways that can make their visit much more interesting, memorable, and safe....Preservation of the size and number of picnic areas, roadside turnouts, and roadside parking areas along the Tioga Road corridor recognizes the very important roles they play in benefiting park visitors and park management.”
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-16)

The National Park Service should maintain the Lembert Dome picnic area.

“[U]nder the WSRA all existing uses along the Tuolumne River management corridor including picnicking may continue where they do not conflict with river protection.[22] Moreover, the 1980 Yosemite GMP states that a variety of uses must be retained to preserve the vitality of the park, and those activities such as climbing, camping and picnicking ‘which take advantage of the park’s natural features rather than man-made facilities or mechanized equipment, are the most appropriate uses of the park.’[23] The climbing and picnicking at Lembert Dome is one such place.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-25)

“The Lembert Dome has been popular with climbers for decades, not only as a morning breakfast location and staging area for climbs on the dome, but as a place to cook dinner outside the confines of the campground. Here, picnickers can walk up the base of the dome and sit while eating their dinner and enjoy the changing colors of the sunset and the spectacular views out over Tuolumne Meadows towards the Cathedral Range. NPS management policies state that ‘picnic areas and other day use areas to be used for specific purposes may be provided on a limited basis as appropriate to meet existing visitor needs.’[24] The Lembert Dome area has been serving the needs of climbers, picnickers and other recreational users for decades and should be preserved and possibly expanded under the Tuolumne Plan.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-26)

The National Park Service should avoid developing picnic areas along the river.

“Trash cans, picnic areas, and restrooms can sometimes lend the thought that someone else will clean up the mess, therefore, I would not like to see picnic areas along the river.”

(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #205-3)

Delaware North Corporation Services and Facilities

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the need for improved concessions in Tuolumne, including upgrades to existing infrastructure.

“My third comment has to do with existing infrastructure and possible directions of future projects. In a park that claims such cultural and historical treasures such as the Ahwahnee hotel and even Curry Village, the concessions allowed at Tuolumne are an embarrassment. However the effort to integrate the structures in the meadows area with the natural landscape seem very minimal. Prefab toilets made of cheap plastic, gas stations/half empty mountain shops, rust stained canvassed sided convenience stores??? The last thing I want is more development however I would like the infrastructure and building that are developed in the park to be something becoming of the environment in which they live.”

(Individual, Truckee, CA, Comment #106-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address visitors’ needs in Tuolumne and provide management guidance to the concessioner to appropriately reflect the services desired.

“Concessioner is not connected with the visitor needs up in Tuolumne and the unique needs for the Tuolumne visitor.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-17)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the appropriate level of concessions services in the high country and retain only the minimum necessary.

“Minimum, necessary concessions need to be available due to the distance covered by the ‘corridor’ but any additional concessions should be prohibited and/or eliminated. The High Country is not a place for ‘shopping’”.

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #261-6)

The National Park Service should allow more than one contractor in Tuolumne to provide food and services to stimulate competition and provide high-quality products for visitors.

“Can have more than one contractor providing food because there is no competition. DNC can serve what they want and people will eat it because there is no other option.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-93)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address a decrease in the quality of services provided in Tuolumne by the Delaware North Corporation.

“The Grill, the store and the Lodge provide good service. (though maybe not quite so good since DNC took over).”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #282-5)

The National Park Service should commend the Delaware North Corporation for their good work in managing facilities in Tuolumne.

“We think that Delaware North is doing a commendable job of running both the store and the lodge, and is far preferable to the old Yosemite Park and Curry Co., for which we once worked seasonally.”

(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-7)

“Facilities in the meadows don’t seem like they are run by DNC – seem more family run and keeping with the rustic ambiance.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-43)

The National Park Service should retain the climbing school in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Appropriate to have climbing school.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #118-55)

“The other part of that building could then still serve the visiting public as a small and valuable recreational equipment shop and as the summer location of the Yosemite Mountaineering School. We feel that the information, equipment and guidance visitors receive from staff at this shop and school represent an extremely valuable resource for the public. And it reinforces in the minds of the visiting public the important overall concept that this is where people prepare themselves to safely explore the spectacular wilderness spread out around them.”

(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-23)

“The mountaineering school should remain.”

(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-11)

The National Park Service should provide bicycle supplies, services, and free or rental bicycles for visitors and employees to use in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Encourage employees and visitors to use bicycles: provide a fleet of bicycles “leave the bike program” make it a priority; give bikes to use.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-54)

“...have free bikes available for use or rentals “

(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #388-4)

“Biking is another mode of transportation that could be expanded within Tuolumne Meadows. With the implementation of a bicycle rental program and more designated bicycle trails, campers and visitors could visit dispersed facilities without utilizing their cars. Also, bicycle lanes would reduce risk of bike-vehicle accidents.”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-16)

The National Park Service should not construct a bike rental facility.

“No bike rental facility.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-58)

“No more expansion of bike rentals.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-193)

The National Park Service should remove the Tuolumne Meadows Post Office.

“Get rid of post office.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-60)

The National Park Service should retain the Tuolumne Meadows Post Office.

“Retain the Post Office and Grill, perhaps consolidating all these canvas structure operations into one permanent building.”
(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-11)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the need for laundry service in Tuolumne.

“Laundry would be nice (if you had laundry and interest, it would save on weekly trip to Lee Vining) but maybe it’s too much for the sewage facility.”
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #304-17)

The National Park Service should refrain from offering Green Dragon bus tours in Tuolumne.

“Love that there’s no green dragon.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-65)

Restaurants and Retail Facilities

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the level of services appropriate in a national park and consider removing the some facilities from Tuolumne (i.e., stables, grill).

“Consider removing stables/grill etc. – vestiges of old way of thinking – what is appropriate in a national park?”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-20)

The National Park Service should retain the existing visitor services in Tuolumne (i.e., grill, lodge, store, Post Office).

“I would like to see the little canvas covered store/gas station complex to remain, carrying only the basic of basics, and covering as little space as possible.”
(Individual, Townsend, MT, Comment #32-2)

“Keep ‘historic’ services (Grill, Lodge, etc.).”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-30)

"I believe that facilities such as the visitor center, grill, store, post office and gas station should stay."
(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #382-6)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address removal of the Tuolumne Meadows Grill.

"Grill may not be necessary for 'Tuolumne Experience'."
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-57)

"Fast food restaurant is not appropriate. A simple cafe/coffee place is appropriate if kept on a small scale."
(Individual, Clovis, CA, Comment #203-9)

"The grill should be closed; there is no need for what is essentially a fast-food outlet in Tuolumne Meadows."
(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-8)

The National Park Service should retain the existing Tuolumne Meadows Grill.

"They are riding for 10 days and just stopping through the park at the 'famous YNP Grill'..."
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #124-5)

"Grill ok."
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-90)

"Keep the attached eatery, Spartan though it is."
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-6)

The National Park Service should improve the Tuolumne Meadows Grill.

"The food offered by the grill could certainly be improved without increasing the cost."
(Individual, Redwood City, CA, Comment #286-10)

"Fix the grill at the Grill. Bring back buckwheat pancakes."
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #304-15)

"Restore the old horseshoe grill next to the store, and discontinue the present take-out system which is anti-human and feels like being in a New York subway."
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-6)

The National Park Service should consider ways of improving the quality of food served in Tuolumne Meadows.

"Tuolumne Lodge food was disappointing."
(Individual, Holland, Comment #44-2)

"Café has nasty hamburgers. Someone who cares about food (like a 'Mom & Pops') should run the place – evil. I don't come here for junk food."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-92)

"Good food for those who live and visit here would be a welcome addition if possible."
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-28)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the addition of more eating establishments in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Things that should be built - more food places.”
(Individual, Comment #75-11)

“Build 3-5 more cafes and eating spots between the present TM grill and the service station. These should be outside of the contract presently held by the concessionaire (is it YCS?) to foster variety and give people a chance to interact. (these cafes might be used as sleeping places in winter).”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-7)

“I would recommend something to keep the flies out while you're trying to eat. Maybe a restaurant next to the food place.”
(Individual, Newberry Park, WA, Comment #405-1)

The National Park Service should retain the Tuolumne Meadows Store.

“Many YNP visitors value the opportunity to buy gas and basic groceries at Tuolumne Meadows, and this convenience for incidental services maintains the quality of the visitor experience by preventing the need to drive to Lee Vining or Crane Flat. Accordingly, the current Tuolumne Meadows facilities are appropriately modest yet serve important visitor needs and should be retained at present levels.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-21)

“I love the store...how it looks, supplies for camping, etc.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-34)

The National Park Service should remove the Tuolumne Meadows Store.

“Also I question the need for the grocery and gas station. Facilities such as these not only detract from the mood of place but also require staff housing which puts additional pressure on this fragile area.”
(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #160-2)

“Specifically I recommend removal of the store and grill. These businesses are not essential and create a focal point for traffic as well as detracting from the natural beauty of the area.”
(Individual, San Anselmo, CA, Comment #195-2)

The National Park Service should improve the Tuolumne Meadows Store.

“The Tuolumne Meadows store seems to carry less food & useful items, & more cheap souvenirs. I'd like it to be more of a true little general store. Lose the tourist junk.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #72-5)

“Keep gifts and junk out of the store, only provide the necessities – produce: buy from local farms...The store should focus more on good food for the people who live here over the summer, rather than on tourist trinkets.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-28)

“Although I disagree with the addition of more facilities for visitors, I agree with upgrading the facilities already in place. An important facility that I feel needs much attention is the Tuolumne Store. Recently at work I listened to a visitor discuss with me the dismay he felt that he couldn't find an apple in the Tuolumne store. That same day, I listened to an older gentleman discuss with me how the Tuolumne store used to carry everything you needed, now when he shops in the store, he is lucky to find one thing on his list. Even in the few short years I have lived in Tuolumne, I have noticed a dramatic decrease in food quality and quantity. In order to stock my refrigerator on a weekly basis, I must drive an hour one way to Mammoth in order to have a selection bigger than two food products.”

(Individual, Redding, CA, Comment #253-7)

The National Park Service should relocate the Tuolumne Meadows Store and Grill.

“Relocate the Store/Grill out of the river corridor.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-15)

“Store should be further back in trees or a new location.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-82)

“Tuolumne Meadows Store - could be relocated to accommodate more parking but less environmental impact if possible.”

(Individual, New York, NY, Comment #168-5)

The National Park Service should extend the hours of operation for the Tuolumne Meadows Store and Grill.

“Extend store and grill hours.”

(Individual, Comment #42-6)

“Store hours should be extended until 8pm at least.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-32)

“Would like grill to stay open longer.”

(Individual, Orange, CA, Comment #381-3)

The National Park Service should retain the existing tent building design of the Tuolumne Meadows Store and Grill.

“The store and grill have historical and emotional importance, and the canvas tent building in its present location should remain as it is.”

(Individual, Comment #150-3)

“Store /Campground: I would hate to see a hard-sided structure. The pulled apart look suits this place and the experience.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-12)

“The store, grill, etc. with their temporary seasonal structures seem very appropriate for the camping crowd. harsh winters also would require high maintenance for 'more lofty' commercial structures.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-2)

The National Park Service should consider installing drink machines at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

“Put up drink machines on the visitor center.”

(Individual, Comment #76-5)

“How about a coke machine at a trail crossroads in the meadows? Is a Coke machine compatible with preservation or is it A vending machine would be out of character placed between a deer lily and a columbine; however, inside a rest room, or a visitor center, the same may aid the enjoyment of the visitor without compromising the preservation mission.”

(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-4)

Gas Station

The National Park Service should remove the gas station from Tuolumne Meadows.

“The gas station should be removed. I believe that its presence there may actually be illegal per current law.”
(Individual, Comment #115-2)

“Eliminating the gas station at Tuolumne Meadows will reduce vehicle congestion and improve the aesthetic quality of the area.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-17)

“I feel the gas station in Tuolumne Meadows is a risk to the ecosystem. The underground tanks could leak, or there could be a spill during transportation. There is no need for gas in the Meadows. The Mobil on the East side is 15 miles away! Please consider removing gas facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Windsor, CO, Comment #407-1)

The National Park Service should retain the gas station in Tuolumne Meadows.

“I think the gas station is a necessity...”
(Individual, Redwood City, CA, Comment #286-11)

“Gas station: keep it. You removed Valley gas and overloaded Crane Flat. Not enough water for service station restrooms at Crane. You'll just overload Crane if you take out TM gas. You can't even drive in to Crane Flat gas in summer months it's so crowded now.”
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #390-11)

“Keep gas station! Crane Flat is already mobbed! Safety issue there. Can't get in/out of area easily.”
(Individual, Pacifica, CA, Comment #439-12)

The National Park Service should manage the Tuolumne Meadows gas station to minimize impacts to resources.

“Attention should be paid to the gas station that it only use double walled tanks with leak detection.”
(Individual, Livermore, CA, Comment #455-2)

National Park Service Interpretive Services**The TRP/TMP EIS should address the quality of interpretive services throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.**

“Most Park Rangers usually cannot give a straight answer. Some seemed a bit high!”
(Individual, Comment #60-1)

“When we came in the East entrance Mon, Aug 21 5:00 we asked how to get to White Wolf campground. The Ranger gave quick incorrect directions. Either say you don't know or give enough time to give correct directions. (all she said was stay on 120, she didn't say anything about turning at Crane Flat!)”
(Individual, Fullerton, CA, Comment #370-1)

The National Park Service should recognize the value of National Park Service staff to visitors.

“I enjoy the guidance of the Rangers & Park Service staff who are amazingly knowledgeable.”
(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #88-3)

“The shining stars of the Tuolumne Meadows Campground are the National Park Personnel working there. During all of my five stays I have been impressed with the attitude, performance and competence of all - from Ranger to Kiosk Attendant.”
(Individual, Comment #237-8)

“Rangers are always friendly and polite and even good humored when assigning sites and dealing with requirements.”

(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #282-7)

The National Park Service should increase the amount of historical interpretive information available to park visitors.

“There needs to be more interpretive information available: natural history, rivers, glaciers, uplift, Native Americans and the great debate over the role of YNP in providing water and power to a major city.”

(Individual, Sonoma Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-7)

“Inform us on interactions with this place with some historical context.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-26)

“Promote history, preservation of Meadows/River.”

(Individual, Irvington, AL, Comment #435-4)

The National Park Service should offer more geology-related interpretive information.

“More geology interpretation needed! Especially at Olmstead Point where many field trips stop!”

(Individual, Benton, CA, Comment #95-1)

The National Park Service should provide better interpretive information and a stronger National Park Service staff presence for visitors.

“More Field Rangers! Get 'em out of their cars!”

(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-10)

“Is it possible to increase Ranger presence to monitor, educate, and assist visitors?”

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-10)

“Park interpreters (naturalists and rangers) are a necessary resource to insure that the public enjoys their park experience, appreciates Tuolumne Meadows many features and the complexity of its ecosystem, and stays committed to protecting it. This charge is best fulfilled by park professionals, who have made careers of helping us appreciate and care for our special places. Privatizing is a dangerous direction to go. Any time profits are the bottom line and primary motivation some integrity will be sacrificed. In the case of protecting our natural legacy such compromises cannot be made.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-14)

The National Park Service should provide educational and interpretive services for children.

“Place to take kids (site/building) where kids could get interpretation about river.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-63)

“It would also be beneficial to have educational materials suitable for children—to instill “leave no trace” practices at a young age.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-20)

The National Park Service should emphasize visitor education in their interpretive programs and services.

“Educating people is a big part of understanding management plans.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-65)

“Help people learn and understand what is unique and special about the Tuolumne Meadows area through increased information.”

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-38)

“Education seems important to the maintenance of the area. Let people know why there are limited uses and facilities. You've been wonderful at doing this. Keep it up.”

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #209-14)

The National Park Service should improve interpretive services that educate visitors about protection of resources throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Will the plan include options to promote education about the area and encourage safe hiking and exploration? (I believe educating the public is key to help preserve and protect our natural resources and to prevent unnecessary destruction that is often caused by ignorance. Increasing the options to accommodate more rangers and volunteers to educate and lead hikes would be desirable).”

(Individual, Comment #230-3)

“Again, an education component is critical. Many visitors to Tuolumne Meadows are not versed in wilderness ethics or how to behave appropriately in this type of place. Basic knowledge related to Leave No Trace ethics and how to interact (or rather, not interact) with wildlife should be included. Generally trying to convey a sense of respect for nature is paramount.”

(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-8)

“Once we determine how best to protect the meadow, we need to find effective ways to educate visitors about how to do this. We could begin the education process by: Developing a simple consistent message about protecting meadows; Developing materials for reaching park staff (both NPS and park partners) with this message; Placing the message in written materials for visitors, including hiking sheets, maps, Yosemite Today; Developing appropriate interpretive signs about meadow protection and placing them at strategic locations, including roadsides, visitor centers and other visitor gathering places, Educating bus tour companies and other large groups about appropriate meadow use; Incorporating these protection messages into ranger programs and other outreach efforts.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-15)

The National Park Service should provide bird-watching tours.

“Provide: Bird watching tours.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadow Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-70)

The National Park Service should educate day-use visitors about proper food storage.

“Educate day-visitors on proper food storage.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-122)

The National Park Service should consider more effective ways of educating park visitors about the dangers of roads to wildlife and the importance of adhering to posted speed limits.

“These motorists [thru traffic only] may be less inclined to, for example, read park literature to learn the meaning of “red bear, dead bear” signs. I, a frequent visitor, had to have this explained to me just the other day. Sign proliferation is obviously undesirable but a couple of informative signs near park entrances or at hot spots might get a message across that “SPEED LIMIT 45 MPH doesn't quite express.”

(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-16)

"I think the staff at the entry kiosk, especially the Eastern entrance, should tell each visitor that speed is strictly enforced in order to protect wildlife."

(Individual, Lake Forest, CA, Comment #185-16)

The National Park Service should continue to offer Yosemite Institute and Yosemite Association classes and workshops for visitors.

"YI/YA classes"

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-33)

The National Park Service should include shuttle bus stop and scheduling information in the Yosemite Today park newspaper.

"Newspaper should show shuttle bus stops with restrooms etc./ Buses will stop if can pull off road safely."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-53)

"Newspaper/map should show bus stops/schedules."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-94)

The National Park Service should include information about protection of water quality in the Yosemite Today park newspaper.

"Nothing in newspaper that talks about water quality and how to protect it."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-60)

The National Park Service should distribute educational materials to visitors with campground reservations in advance of their arrival to the park.

"Provide ½ sheet in camps to verify that camper acknowledges that food needs to be properly stored to prevent bear activity. Campers have to sign ½ sheet now, which is new this year! Good! Educate campers before visit. Have them verify (somehow) that they are aware of proper food storage techniques."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-121)

"Campground people could get educational information in advance of arriving. Other place to pick up/drop off info to reduce #of people going to visitor center."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-153)

The National Park Service should distribute an educational audio CD at entrance gates for visitors to listen to while driving through park.

"Perhaps distribute an educational CD at entrance gates that people could listen to while driving through park."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-152)

The National Park Service should distribute educational materials to visitors focused specifically on 'Leave No Trace' (LNT) ethics.

"As many visitors don't appear to read the outstanding "Yosemite Today" perhaps a yellow sheet could be handed out at the entrance stations, with the "leave no trace" points - ie no picking flowers, leaving paper waste, etc."

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #213-4)

"[What kind of services or facilities would you like to see offered, improved or removed?] A focus on informing visitors about LNT and damage control at park entry, and making that information easily available in other languages, I know some Spanish versions of park info are available, but I'm unsure of other translations."

(Individual, Comment #6-6)

“A focus on informing visitors about LNT and damage control at park entry, and making that information easily available in other languages, I know some Spanish versions of park info are available, but I'm unsure of other translations.”

(Individual, Comment #6-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess the adequacy of the Tioga Pass entrance station in providing information to park visitors.

“Tioga Pass Entrance visitor parking and interruptive area seem too small. I favor more interpretive signs there and at other places where visitors pass on foot or park. Screening of these signs would be wise where screening is available.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-12)

Visitor Centers

The National Park Service should enlarge or otherwise improve the existing visitor center in Tuolumne.

“Build a bigger, better VC. It's crazy that the sales area of the VC is nearly as large as the display area.”

(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-9)

“Drop by Visitor Center. It should be larger, it is barely adequate. Could be used as a teaching center (e.g. Leave No Trace principles). It is important to provide opportunities for people to educate themselves. There is something wrong with the fact that the Visitor Center is smaller than the store.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-54)

“Finally, the educational material in the visitor center should be expanded to offer more education and principles.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-22)

The National Park Service should expand the children's interpretive center at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

“Like kids interpretive center (need more - teach them about treading lightly).”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-62)

The National Park Service should consider use of solar power to operate the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

“Thinks the Visitor Center should be open during the day, and have little to no electricity- provided by the sun (solar power).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-38)

The National Park Service should transform the current Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center into the backcountry permit and Wilderness information office in order to remove the current permit office.

“The current Visitor Center should be transformed into the backcountry permit and wilderness information office...The current permit kiosk/wilderness office could then be eliminated.”

(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #285-6)

The National Park Service should construct a community center similar to Parsons Memorial Lodge near the Tuolumne Meadows Campground to provide an area for educational programs.

“Build a community center similar to Parson's Lodge near TM campground, where folks can gather and where wilderness education programs can be held, as well as shelter from storms for ten-camping persons.”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #366-5)

The National Park Service should retain the existing style and location of the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center.

“Visitor Center: Prefer no changes. Any changes to exhibitry should retain the homespun feel of the wildflower exhibits and the hanging flags. Visitor Center should remain in the existing building and should not be made an epicenter like the store.”
(Individual, El Portal CA, Comment #234-1)

“Keep the Visitor center as it is.”
(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #305-3)

“I would suggest keeping the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center intact and in use, so people can see Tuolumne buildings from an earlier era.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-32)

The National Park Service should relocate the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center so that the public can more easily find and access it.

“Nobody finds VC because people are all going to the store for directional information.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-20)

“Make NPS Visitor Center more prominent and the concessionaries less prominent physically in the meadows. Right now, the most visible human presence in the meadows is the store/gas station. This seems contrary to the mission of the park.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-12)

“It is difficult to find the present “visitor center”. This is an adapted building and is probably inadequate for its present use. Consider building a modern visitor center and perhaps incorporate backcountry permitting operations in the same location. This would centralize two operations and allow hikers to receive current bear safety information, etc. Denali is an example of where this has been done and it works quite well.”
(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-15)

The National Park Service should construct a Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center in Lee Vining.

“A visitor center on 120 near Lee Vining would be fine. I estimate this cuts the human population of Tuolumne in about half.”
(Individual, Palmdale, CA, Comment #161-5)

The National Park Service should consolidate the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center with other facilities in the meadows.

“I am aware that redesigning the store/restaurant and gas station in such a way that they did not directly face the road is being discussed - as well as consolidating the Visitors' Center into a single complex. This is GREAT idea, space and money permitting. However, my recommendation is to NOT do this – at least at this time. While a great concept, where would it be built? Near the current location of the store and gas station, it would (1) move way into the campground as well as (2) the wet area aspects of the space behind the store would have to be studied. The consolidated area could be built further west, but the further west, the less convenient to campers.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-12)

“Remove Visitor Center and consolidate information services at one location convenient to the campground and lodge, perhaps the existing Wilderness Office.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-9)

"Use one central VC for wild permits (utilize permit office for something else) VC should have permits, store, climbing school all combined near gas station possibly."

(Individual, Pacific, CA, Comment #439-8)

Interpretive Programs

The National Park Service should recognize the value of the interpretive ranger programs in Tuolumne Meadows to park visitors.

"Ranger/campfire programs are wonderful."

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-35)

"Ranger Programs - the wide variety of programs, from short hikes to long hikes to arts and story telling all play a roll in helping people connect with Tuolumne."

(Individual, Comment #215-12)

"Continue excellent Ranger campfire programs/talks."

(Individual, San Jose, CA, Comment #379-4)

The National Park Service should maintain low-tech campfire programs.

"The campfire programs are great. I like the set-up that does not include a project screen. The program I heard on Ravens was excellent..."

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-17)

"Keep the campfire shows low-tech (no slide shows). Don't fire park rangers and replace them with low-paid private employees."

(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #227-6)

The National Park Service should increase the quantity and quality of public education programs available to visitors in Tuolumne Meadows.

"Improving the Ranger programs would be appreciated -- more ranger guided hikes, more talks and walks, campfires (where did they go?). Long hikes are appreciated -- 4 to 6 hours, as well as some shorter ones in the 2 hour range. It's a shame that DNC is replacing the ranger programs with paid programs. Privatizing services (restaurants, lodging, etc) is fine, but the rangers are the face of the NPS and of Yosemite. Therefore, ranger programs shouldn't be privatized. The biggest goal should be to increase the rangers' presence."

(Individual, Long Beach, CA, Comment #223-5)

"Restore the schedule of ranger-led programs that we enjoyed in Tuolumne Meadows twenty years ago, such as the wonderful Mt. Dana hike. The park attracts campers from all over the world--dramatically more so in recent years--and more challenging hikes like that would appeal especially to European hikers."

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #259-4)

"Promote the arts in Yosemite by inviting volunteers to host photo walks and have outdoor art classes - above and beyond what is currently available."

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #442-1)

The National Park Service should emphasize the cultural history of the Tuolumne area in interpretive programs.

"The cultural history of the area should be emphasized."

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #261-10)

The National Park Service should provide interpretive programs about the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Lodge visitors should hear interpretive programs about the W&S river flowing beside the lodge. Is there staff and budget for this at the fire circle overlooking the Dana Fork? If not, what can be done to provide these?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-15)

“Is more staff or budget needed for adding programs on river ORV programs (where the river comes from and where it goes, lack of trout and lack of native frogs, how water and a river of ice formed this part of the park, spring flooding and accretion)?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-17)

“Would visitor experience be enriched by pointing out the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River’s outstanding values in ranger talks, on ranger led hikes near the river corridor, in articles in the “Yosemite Guide” and by notation of the river status on the “Yosemite Official Map & Guide”?”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #298-80)

The National Park Service should continue to offer the Parsons Memorial Lodge Summer Series.

“Parsons Lodge should continue the summer programs.”

(Individual, Comment #150-9)

“Continue the Parsons Lodge Summer Series-Excellent program.”

(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #305-15)

“Programs at Parson’s Lodge are great entertainment.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-65)

The National Park Service should continue to offer the poetry festival in Tuolumne Meadows each summer.

“Thank you for the poetry festival - especially for the courageous choice of poets who bring the real world issues and stimulate sharing and discussion with new people.”

(Individual, Springfield, OR, Comment #360-7)

The National Park Service should consider ways to promote the Red Bear/Dead Bear Program.

“The red bear/dead bear program needs more publicity so that more people know what it is and it will be a more effective program.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-14)

The National Park Service should increase interpretive programs for children.

“Increase Ranger campfire programs for children.”

(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #305-11)

“Another suggestion is classes to teach children to respect nature and learn to be more quiet around wild animals instead of run and shout like they do in the play ground ; just education basically.”

(Individual, Kihei, HI, Comment #114-2)

The National Park Service should consider relocating children’s programs from Conness Circle to Dana Circle in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Conness Circle: the site of children’s programs. In other times with more Interpretive Rangers, this facility was used more. For years now, usage seems to be a single children’s program lasting one hour one day a week. My

suggestion is to move the children's program to Dana Circle. (It appears this could be accomplished with either no change or only a minor change to the campground schedule, i.e. on the day of the children's program, move it ½ hour earlier, and, if necessary, move the general campfire program ½ hour later.) Then build campsites in this space."

(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-8)

Signs & Wayside Exhibits

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING TRAIL SIGNS, SEE 'PARK OPERATIONS – TRAILS', PAGE 186.

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING ROAD SIGNS, SEE 'PARK OPERATIONS – ROADS', PAGE 183.

The National Park Service should address improved trail signage throughout the Tuolumne area to manage visitor use, protect resources, and enhance the visitor experience.

"More instructional signs about how to treat the meadow and the wildlife would also help guide our behaviors toward conservation."

(Individual, Portsbo, WA, Comment #459-6)

"It is very difficult as a backpacker to find specific destinations in the Tuolumne area. For example, there is no distinctive signage regarding paths to General Store, Ranger Station, or Tuolumne Lodge. I'm not the only one who got lost at the last .5 miles of our trip. Better signs at the end would be a great help (the signs on the rest of the trails are excellent!)."

(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #408-1)

The National Park Service should make trailside interpretive sites and signage as visually unobtrusive as possible.

"Trailside interpretive sites should be made as unobtrusive as possible and placed where they do not impact the view shed and should be constructed with natural materials (rocks, timbers etc.)."

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-12)

"Wayside exhibits throughout the meadow and ranger discussions could also spread the message of responsible use, while educating the visitor of Tuolumne's rich history. However, we would like to see all signage in the meadow, both existing and new, placed at a lower height and less visually intrusive to the overall panoramic vista of the meadow."

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-23)

"Interpretive signing should be kept to a minimum. Visitors can be educated in other ways. The signs detract from the scenery."

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #303-9)

The National Park Service should provide "You Are Here" maps for visitors throughout Tuolumne Meadows.

"'You are here' maps like in the valley."

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-22)

"'You are here' maps including info on shuttle bus stops, wherever people congregate (e.g., grocery store, grill), parking lots, bathrooms."

(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-39)

The National Park Service should ensure that signage throughout the project area is easily understood by all park visitors (i.e., kids).

“Signs should be better understandable by everyone (including kids) – e.g., “reforestation” – kids won’t get it.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-53)

The National Park Service should provide multi-lingual, international signage throughout the project area.

“Multi-lingual, international signing in areas that require more protection (ex – Pothole Dome Meadow Area Restoration).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-245)

“Make signage multilingual - inviting to foreigners.”
(Individual, Irvington, AL, Comment #435-3)

The National Park Service should improve interpretive signs to educate visitors about wildlife in Tuolumne.

“Put more signs up explaining the wildlife.”
(Individual, Comment #76-10)

The National Park Service should improve signage to educate visitors about regulations regarding pets and vehicles in Tuolumne.

“Also make no walking dogs signs more visible like 10 ft X 10 ft where dogs are not allowed as they disturb the natural wildlife .”

(Individual, Kihei, HI, Comment #114-3)

“There should be much clearer signs and written notices about pets and wheeled vehicles in the Tuolumne Meadows area.”

(Individual, Dunedin, FL, Comment #375-4)

Transportation

Existing Conditions

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING TIOGA ROAD OPENING DATES/CLOSURES, SEE 'VISITOR ACCESS', PAGE 88.

FOR CONCERNS REGARDING ROADS, TRAILS, AND BRIDGES, SEE 'PARK OPERATIONS', PAGE 182.

The National Park Service should acknowledge that there is a high traffic volume in the Tuolumne area.

"Dismayed w/ amount of cars..."
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #66-1)

"...there is a lot of traffic through TM (Tuolumne Meadows)."
(Individual, Comment #68-4)

The National Park Service should address the perception that buses are the only means of transportation into the park.

"Make sure all bases are covered- there is a big perception built up in the area that buses are the only way to get into YNP (example of 140 closure and reaching EP was incorrect!)."
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-47)

The National Park Service should recognize the Tioga Road as an important trans-Sierra transportation corridor.

"Road is a transportation corridor – some of the traffic is using it to get from 395 to Central Valley. Move some of this through traffic to other routes so can slow people in Tuolumne down and get them out of cars. Our goal as a park is to provide people a park experience, not provide a transportation corridor."
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-23)

"Highway 120 should remain a trans-Sierra highway open to through traffic."
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-26)

"It needs to be recognized that a significant amount of travel through the park is strictly about the shortest distance from point A (the east side) to point B (civilization) and has nothing to do with the park."
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-15)

Management Direction

The TRP/TMP EIS should evaluate costs related to transportation and parking improvements prior to implementation.

"Above all, we strongly urge that the cost of these transportation and parking methods be evaluated as cost effective prior to possible implementation."
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-17)

The National Park Service should objectively consider major changes to transportation infrastructure.

“Think objectively about the quickly changing world and what transportation infrastructure and methods will look like in the relatively near future (aka the near future is next 5 to 10 years). The near future is going to necessitate major changes so let’s not lay concrete and asphalt that will be antiquated in the near future.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-222)

The National Park Service should support improvements to transportation infrastructure that connects with gateway communities.

“Develop transportation infrastructure that supports access to and within the gateway communities.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-25)

“Support improvements to key access routes to Mono County and the eastern gateway corridors.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-27)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include past transportation studies completed for Tuolumne.

“BRW Transportation Study: How will this study affect plan in terms of addressing buses vs. private vehicle model?”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-61)

“Will the NPS use the 1994 transportation study specific to Tuolumne Meadows as a starting point to address parking issues in the area? NPS will need to include/reference the study or refute it in this plan.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-17)

Parking

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARKING AND USER CAPACITY, SEE ‘USER CAPACITY’, PAGE 95.

The National Park Service should increase parking capacity in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Hopefully you can enlarge the parking areas or create new ones (or provide public transportation to the meadows) for day hiking.”
(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-9)

“More parking spaces – prefer more along road (as is) than affecting new areas.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-72)

“A place will have to be sacrificed for the new parking lot. I recommend the old horse meadow at the junction of the Tioga Road and the Lower Gaylor Lake trailhead. The great majority of hikers enter the Gaylor Basin from Tioga Pass, and that meadow is not even known to most people.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-21)

The National Park Service should not increase parking capacity in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Parking areas should not be expanded as presumably the meadow areas would suffer at the increase of use. Rather than implement quotas for various uses, consider using parking availability as a self-limiting mechanism for controlling access. This is done in many other areas of the Sierra and is generally quite effective. Population numbers and visitor-use demands will always continue to increase. The cumulative impacts to continually responding to public demand for more parking will never cease and will only serve to fragment this habitat further.”
(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-12)

“Less parking = more people taking the bus and/or walking. Tuolumne does not need more space for cars!!”
(Individual, Salt Lake City, UT, Comment #356-3)

“No new parking should be built.”
(Individual, Comment #235-1)

The National Park Service should maintain access to roadside parking in the Tuolumne area to enhance the visitor experience.

“Allow people to park along the road and control, rather than concentrating parking in a few lots.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-20)

“The existing pullouts along Highway 120 are necessary because they serve the needs of visitors who access the numerous hiking, climbing, fishing and mountaineering objectives found in the Tuolumne region. Many of these areas are not served by a formal NPS trailhead or parking areas and require various specific parking locations along Highway 120 between Tioga Pass and Crane Flat. This is true particularly in the Tuolumne Meadows region where most of the rock climbing is found. Removing these pullouts would cause access problems for these user groups and potentially cause resource damage from Tuolumne visitors forced to pull on to the shoulder of Highway 120. Instead, the NPS should survey existing parking locations and formally acknowledge key parking sites along Highway 120 to facilitate visitor access and address any maintenance needs. If necessary, the NPS should take measures to mitigate parking impacts while preserving the essential access these parking areas provide.”
(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-23)

“We feel the Plans should preserve the following recreational values of the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows regions which we cherish: Preservation of the size and number of picnic areas, roadside turnouts, and roadside parking areas along the Tioga Road corridor. In weighing resource impacts versus values, the National Park Service should realize that picnic areas, roadside turnouts, and roadside parking areas are in fact tremendously valuable resources for visitors of all types. They allow people to pause their travels, rest, walk around, appreciate the scenery and fresh air, plus interact and learn from other visitors in spontaneous, serendipitous ways that can make their visit much more interesting, memorable, and safe....preservation of the size and number of picnic areas, roadside turnouts, and roadside parking areas along the Tioga Road corridor recognizes the very important roles they play in benefiting park visitors and park management.”
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-16)

The National Park Service should formalize roadside parking with pavement and barriers to reduce impacts to resources, enhance the visitor experience, and improve safety.

“Eliminate the confusion - a turn out should be paved and delineated with boulders. Only then can driving off road be fairly enforced.”
(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #10-10)

“Better contain roadside parking – Not necessarily alleviate with more parking lots.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-33)

“While turnouts along Tioga Road allow visitors to explore the meadow on their own terms, it can damage the meadows and become an eyesore on busy days. To resolve this, we suggest: 1) Increase the number of “barrier rocks” along Tioga Road, keeping parked cars in the designated turnouts and out of the meadow, and 2) consider parking “nodes”—small parking areas nestled in the trees to reduce parking numbers along the road. That said, however, the use of parking nodes should be evaluated using the appropriate environmental analysis methods to ensure that the delicate trees of this alpine environment are not damaged by the construction of a parking node.”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-15)

The National Park Service should eliminate or limit roadside parking in Tuolumne.

“Alternatives to having cars parked along the shoulders of the main road need to be considered. Simply banning roadside parking is not an acceptable solution without having first established practical alternatives... Good locations for other small parking areas need to be determined.”
(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-4)

“Every effort should be made to limit parking by individual vehicles all along the highway. Adequate parking lots in strategically located areas needs to be provided and then the shuttle services expanded so people travel about by bus rather than individual car.”
(Individual, Corvallis, OR, Comment #353-14)

“Eliminate Roadside Parking East of Visitor Center: The roadside parking along the meadow east of the Visitor Center creates public safety concerns, has negative visual impacts, and promotes unmanaged recreation in Tuolumne Meadows that encourages trampling and other impacts. CSERC asks that the Park eliminate roadside parking in this area by placing natural roadside barricades next to the road to prevent use of the pullouts.”
(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-8)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address trailhead parking.

“Ideally, wouldn’t have any cars parked at trailheads.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-26)

“Consider traffic and pedestrian safety improvements at some of the popular hiking trailheads. For some trailheads, on busy weekends there are dozens of vehicles parked along both shoulders of the road (Highway 120). The shoulder parking contributes to possible traffic and pedestrian safety problems. Additional off-highway parking areas should be considered if they can be constructed in an environmentally sensitive way.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-4)

“Like the ability to park near trailhead- ‘don’t want part of hike to be on sidewalks’.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-25)

The National Park Service should provide for screened parking areas in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Build new, visually sheltered parking nooks at periodic locations along the Tioga Pass Road, especially west of Tuolumne Meadows, to reduce unsafe parking, parking in highly scenic locations or over congestion at Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-27)

“Need parking nodes (similar to the type at the Tuolumne Visitor Center) especially around Cathedral Lakes Trailhead. Parking nodes are more scenic, safe and operational than roadside parking.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-10)

“The highly negative impacts of roadside parking along Highway 120 and other secondary roads must be eliminated throughout the Tuolumne Meadows area. Parking should be sequestered in forest cover where possible between the highway and the wilderness boundary to the south. New off-road parking should be designed to remove as few trees as possible to maintain cover and avoid creating new large open “parking lots” that maximize parking spaces but does nothing to resolve the issue of excessive numbers of vehicles visually impacting the outstanding scenic qualities of the Tuolumne Meadows area...New parking in open areas should not be developed.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-6)

The National Park Service should consider if there is a need to move facilities and parking areas away from the Tioga Road.

“Is there really a need to move facilities away from the road? People who see them are, after all, on a road. Are the impacts on new areas worth it? Roadside parking is an issue, but I question eliminating it if it means trashing previously unmolested terrain.”

(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-5)

The National Park Service should move parking for Tuolumne Meadows to Crane Flat and Lee Vining.

“Place parking at farthest periphery to Tuolumne Meadows, even as far out as Crane Flat, Lee Vining and take shuttle in to Tuolumne Area....Parking should be located on the periphery to reduce crowding/congestion with cars and people (okay to deal with people; but at least not cars).”

(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-32)

“All parking may need to be moved outside the park eventually.”

(Individual, Comment #150-20)

“High priority should be given to developing a parking facility in the Crane Flat/Highway 120 junction area.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-10)

The National Park Service should install oil separators in parking areas in the Tuolumne area.

“Require vehicles to park on paved areas and install oil separators on parking areas to assure surface water quality.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-7)

The National Park Service should maintain and improve existing climbing access parking areas.

“The current parking and traffic situation could be improved by paying some attention to the climbing and hiking guides that are sold at the Tuolumne Store! Easier and more popular climbs and hikes need some adequate designated parking near their starts.”

(Individual, Comment #237-2)

“The current parking for Fairview and Daff Domes are dirt areas which I would guess started out from people trampling vegetation further and further until it became roadside parking. I'm sure there is sediment from these areas washing downstream in rain storms from these areas, and getting into these spots can be dicey when it is crowded. Expansion of these areas with proper grading, and putting down a proper gravel base would be a nice improvement. Regarding the expansion of these lots, keep in mind that the climbing that these lots typically provide access to can only handle slightly more traffic, so major expansion would be unnecessary.”

(Individual, Everett, WA, Comment #108-3)

“Existing Parking Locations Should be Retained Throughout the Tuolumne Area: The Access Fund is concerned that the NPS may remove parking locations along the Highway 120 corridor as part of the River Plan. We support the retention of existing climber access parking locations at, for example, Fairview and Cottage Domes.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-22)

The National Park Service should provide specific parking lots for hikers and backpackers.

“[M]anagement efforts [should provide] adequate backpacker vehicle parking with a maximum limit/carrying capacity established.”

(Individual, Comment #3-3)

“Build a parking lot, out of sight from Tioga road for back-packer and day-hiker/climber use.”

(Individual, Naperville, IL, Comment #152-4)

“Backpackers and day hikers could park at the two parking areas south of Tioga Road where the current permit kiosk is located and the John Muir Trail lot; if necessary, a new parking area should be considered in the same area by the employee housing and stables or even further east at Tuolumne Lodge.”
(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-10)

The National Park Service should provide convenient access to services if parking were to be concentrated away from those services.

“If you provide parking away from collocated services, need a short convenient way to get people to services – NOT like the day-use parking to VC in valley.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-24)

The National Park Service should provide more parking at bus stops.

“One need is more parking where there will be a bus stop.”
(Individual, Comment #130-2)

The National Park Service should expand parking at the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center, store area, and Wilderness Center.

“Could parking be increased at the Visitors Center? It is great to see hiking so popular by folks of all ages and perhaps attention to parking and bus use should be improved.”
(Individual, Elkton, OR, Comment #311-5)

“Tuolumne Meadows store area – Increase parking area off street in such a way as to not harm the environment but maybe to create several small parking areas.”
(Individual, Irvine, CA, Comment #131-4)

“Perhaps parking lots at the Wilderness center, Lembert Dome, Visitor centers, and Tenaya lake as well as a lot along the area where rock climbers access climbs just east of Tenaya Lake should be “right sized” and then all parking along the road disallowed. The area is so compact it is quite easy to leave a car at our campsite and hike many places we wish to go in that vicinity.”
(Individual, Corvallis, OR, Comment #353-16)

The National Park Service should provide accessible parking that is compliant with guidelines set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Make accessible parking for handicapped, like road to Mirror Lake.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-44)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address alternative parking concepts for the Cathedral Lakes trailhead.

“The Cathedral Lakes Trail shoulder parking. The scene is a shocker as you drive from east from Tenaya Lake. As you get in the middle of the roadside congestion, and doors open, people pop out an about. I’m surprised there haven’t been serious accidents.”
(Individual, Morgan Hill, CA, Comment #5-2)

“For several years I have been concerned about the parking arrangements for the Cathedral Lakes trailhead in Tuolumne Meadows. As it is now, people have to park on the side of the road, creating a dangerous situation

...during the height of the season, cars are spread out along the road for a long distance, forcing people to walk quite a ways along the highway with their packs just to get to the actual trailhead... I believe that it should be remedied before anybody else is hurt."

(Individual, Oakhurst, CA, Comment #9-1)

"Off-road parking at Cathedral Lakes trailhead is needed. Unsafe parallel parking along roadside now. Shift parking away from creek but provide parking."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-96)

The National Park Service should construct a parking lot at the Cathedral Lakes trailhead.

"Cathedral Lake Trailhead Parking. There needs to be another hikers' parking lot. Since the habit of parking near Cathedral Lake seems so ingrained it would be wise to build an official parking lot near the trailhead. Make it large enough to accommodate the number of cars that are currently parked on the road and then some. Another possibility is to have the new hikers parking lot where the current dump station is located. This site could be used by the Cathedral Lake hikers if the frequency and hours of operation of the shuttle bus were increased. More people would make use of the new lot then."

(Individual, Comment #134-9)

"Cathedral Lakes Trailhead: A parking lot with spaces for at least 30-50 vehicles should be created to serve this popular trailhead and to minimize the need for hikers to park on the shoulder along Highway 120. We suggest creating a parking lot in the forest on the south side of the highway close to the existing trailhead where it could be screened from the road."

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-7)

"Restore the Cathedral Lakes parking lot that was removed several years ago. Address any archeological issues prior to doing so."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-11)

The National Park Service should eliminate parking at the Cathedral Lakes trailhead and accommodate the need somewhere else.

"The parking for the trail to Cathedral Lakes gets worse each year. Would it be possible to close off all roadside parking and expand parking near the lodge or stables and shuttle hikers/backpacker to trailheads?"

(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #126-4)

"Cathedral Lake Trailhead parking needs to be eliminated and other lots need to be enlarged. A new lot may be needed that is not visible from the meadows or road. I think the Cathedral Lake Trailhead roadside parking is the biggest problem for the Tuolumne River Plan."

(Individual, Comment #150-10)

"The parking area for the Cathedral Lakes trailhead should be moved from the current overcrowded and dangerous pull-off from the road... The Visitor Center parking area could become an overnight lot for backpackers using the Cathedral Lakes trail."

(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-5)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address parking for the John Muir trailhead in Tuolumne Meadows.

"The parking for the John Muir trailhead is my second concern. The limited parking here seems to mainly consist of roadside parking on a gravel shoulder. An actual parking area here would be nice, though perhaps not at the cost of losing some of the fantastic meadow. If there is not a location for a parking area that would spare the nice meadowland, perhaps the shoulder parking could be improved and widened. Perhaps even angle parking on one side of the road would be better than the current condition."

(Individual, Everett, WA, Comment #108-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address parking availability at Lembert Dome.

“Parking by stables/Lembert Dome area an issue – people jockeying for spots – biggest parking problem I see – NOT enough there, but don’t want it expanded in that concentrated area.”
(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-61)

“One of the most disturbing areas in Tuolumne Meadows is the parking area and outhouse adjacent to the trail to Glen Aulin. It’s ugly, usually trashy, dusty and it stinks. I believe this is also a half-assed picnic area and starting off point for the Lembert Dome Trail. I’m not sure this is a realistic place to even have a parking area. Green would be nice. Please address this issue in the TRP and TMP EIS.”
(Individual, Victorville, CA, Comment #157-1)

The National Park Service should eliminate parking below Lembert Dome.

“Eliminate parking below Lembert Dome.”
(Individual, Ojai, CA, Comment #189-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address roadside parking concerns at Tenaya Lake.

“Tenaya Lake parking along the road also is dangerous. Too many people do not pull completely off the road.”
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-20)

The National Park Service should provide a parking lot in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“New parking lot could be extension of the campground. ‘D Loop’ in campground is close to road. New parking lot could be put in there.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-108)

“There is not much space between sites and road in D loop of campground. You could use D Loop as an alternate parking place.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-140)

“Provide ‘day use only’ parking access near Tuolumne River along section ‘a’ camping.”
(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #316-5)

The National Park Service should retain parking facilities adjacent to the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge.

“I hope and request that your Tuolumne Meadows Plan will continue to include the Lodge and tents with adjacent parking facilities.”
(Individual, Phoenix, AZ, Comment #322-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address wilderness users’ effects on available parking.

“Will we address wilderness users and their effects on available parking?”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-63)

In-Park Transportation Services & Facilities**The National Park Service should maintain and expand the existing in-park shuttle system.**

“Access to cost-attractive mass transit options should be offered in the area. ‘Attractive’ meaning lower shuttle fare, more arrival/departure times, and shuttles that accommodate recreational use (bikes, kayaks, etc). Through

greater use of the already existent shuttle options, many visitors could park in Yosemite Valley and utilize mass transit options—further freeing up the Tuolumne Area for a more intimate ambiance.”
(Conservation Organization CA, Comment #288-15)

“We favor an expansion of the free Park Shuttle bus system that currently serves part of these regions. This free shuttle system now only operates from Tuolumne Meadows Lodge to Olmstead Point. We favor expansion of this system further west to the Tioga Pass entrance station. This would allow people who are camped in or visiting the adjacent Forest Service lands to take a free bus (after paying Park entrance fees if needed) to the Tuolumne Meadows and Tuolumne River regions without having to use a private vehicle. It could also serve the National Park Service staff who operate the Tioga Pass entrance station. This service would be especially attractive to recreationists like hikers, fishermen, climbers, and photographers who prefer to or need to (because of lack of available campsites) camp outside the Park but want to recreate or take photographs in the Park. It would also be of great value to all visitors during peak visitation days, as they could avoid waiting in long lines of vehicles for the chance to see and enjoy the Tuolumne regions.”
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-25)

“Continue to provide or extend shuttle bus service to reduce vehicle trips and pollution.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-2)

The National Park Service should increase the frequency of shuttle bus trips that service Tuolumne Meadows.

“SHUTTLES: I love the shuttles but they are way under-utilized! Increasing the frequency of the runs might well increase ridership. For campers who want to zip to the store for something or go take a shower, knowing they’ll have to wait 30 minutes for the next shuttle can dissuade them from taking the shuttle. They are also not well-publicized. The drivers are great and full of information but you have to get on your first shuttle to find that out.”
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-11)

“More shuttle service...Shuttles should run every 15 minutes during the day, with a sweeper shuttle into the evening every hour. Any thing less and you will lose the motivation of the users to get out of their cars.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-4)

“I’d suggest the buses circulate at about a 20 minute interval. At the current 30 minute interval we waited as long as 45 minutes for a bus. More frequent intervals would match with the limitation on roadside parking allow quick access to all trail heads.”
(Individual, Corvallis, OR, Comment #353-17)

The National Park Service should expand the hours of operation for the shuttle bus system in Tuolumne.

“The frequency and hours of operation of shuttle service between Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows should be addressed. At present, it appears to be inadequate. That shuttle service should be free, or at least cheap enough that price is not a deterrent. The frequency and hours of operation of free shuttle service between Olmsted Point and Tioga Pass should be considered.”
(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-6)

“One suggestion is to make more public transport compulsory (but of the environmentally friendly type) but it would need to become more extensive & imaginative to make it easy & attractive & convenient for the public to use.”
(Individual, United Kingdom, Comment #88-2)

“Need more frequent public transportation available from Yosemite Valley, Lee Vining to Tuolumne. Intermodal transportation to Yosemite is sorely lacking. You can’t decrease impact of cars unless you make the park more accessible via public transportation.”
(Individual, New York, NY, Comment #168-2)

The National Park Service should consider expansion of the route serviced by the Tuolumne shuttle bus.

“Daily shuttle service could be established from Lee Vining that would provide transportation for relocated employees as well as for day use visitors when Tuolumne Meadows parking exceeds capacity.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-19)

“We support the exploration of a transportation plan that would address increased public transportation, while decreasing impacts on the sensitive Tuolumne Meadows area.”
(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #291-14)

“I think public transit between White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows (including the May Lake and 10 Lakes trailheads) should be considered.”
(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #446-1)

The National Park Service should better publicize the shuttle bus system in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Publicize the free shuttle bus! Put info on the hiker bus along w/shuttle and Yarts bus info at the store's bus stop. People can't use what they don't know about. (The shuttle and Yarts info there is good-just add hikers bus).”
(Individual, Castro Valley, CA, Comment #304-19)

“The shuttle buses are a great idea and need more publicity, also low cost shuttles to and from the Valley would be a great asset.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #179-9)

“The backpackers bus is not well publicized, we couldn't find it on the web.”
(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #446-1)

The National Park Service should provide more reliable shuttle bus service in Tuolumne Meadows.

“The shuttle bus schedule should be reliable as posted. More than once we have had a bus not show up and been faced with a very long hike back to the campground. We would prefer not to have to tow an additional vehicle to compensate for insufficient other (public) transportation options.”
(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #425-8)

“Running shuttles more regularly and having more regular stops might encourage people to leave their cars in the campground and in the Lodge parking.”
(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-19)

The National Park Service should encourage and/or require backpackers and hikers to use the shuttle bus system for accessing trailheads in Tuolumne.

“The presently offered shuttle service should be encouraged or mandatory for travel to trail heads for backpacks or day hikes.”
(Individual, Comment #187-10)

“Establish shuttle service from Yosemite Valley and other points for visitors that will minimize the need for transient use parking. Backpackers on extended trips should be encouraged or required to use shuttles, and trailhead parking could be limited to 2-3 days to encourage shuttle use.”
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-8)

“Could you require shuttle use to trailheads? (No Parking or high parking fees?)”
(Individual, Bonita, CA, Comment #427-7)

The National Park Service should encourage and/or require campers and lodge guests to park their vehicles and use the shuttle bus system for accessing Tuolumne.

“The Olmsted Point-Tioga Pass shuttle is excellent. Encourage or require people to use them. In fact, as developed in my final point, why not require all people with lodge and campground reservations to park ONCE and use the shuttle thereafter until they leave.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-18)

The National Park Service should implement a system in which most overnight visitors to Tuolumne would leave their vehicles at remote staging sites and travel to Tuolumne Meadows by bus.

“Pedestrian and Transit Oriented Initiative: Implement a system in which most overnight visitors to Tuolumne Meadows would leave their vehicles at remote staging sites (e.g. Lee Vining, Yosemite Valley, Crane Flat) and travel to Tuolumne Meadows by bus. An ongoing concern in Yosemite is the problem of excessive private vehicle traffic. Plans for visitor accommodation should facilitate transit access and provide incentives for its use, while discouraging private vehicle use. (The Tuolumne Meadows shuttle bus system, a commendable current effort in this direction, is sadly under utilized because visitors have little incentive to use it).”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-19)

The National Park Service should consider the possibility of a mandatory shuttle system in a separate planning process from the TRP/TMP.

“Within the Tuolumne Meadows area, centralized parking with a mandatory shuttle system has been considered in the past. This would have a huge impact on the quality of the visitor experience. Any consideration of such a system should be done only as a separate planning process with full NEPA review. It should not be allowed to creep in unnoticed in the mass of other issues being laid before the public. This has been a major flaw in previous planning processes, and the error should not be repeated.”

(Environmental Organization, Fresno, CA, Comment #296-5)

The National Park Service should provide inexpensive shuttle bus service between Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Would like to see a free shuttle offered from Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk Comment #125-42)

“Although the Valley and Tuolumne Meadows each have shuttle service, I'm not aware of anything between them. This would be a very useful service to backpackers going between the Valley and the Meadows. People interested in a daytrip to Tuolumne from the Valley could also use the service. I think this could reduce the amount of car traffic in the park as well as the pollution.”

(Individual, Redondo Beach, CA, Comment #323-1)

“Please add funds and schedule a bus to the Tuolumne store to the Valley and back returning in the pm (3-4pm). Charge fares appropriately.”

(Individual, Seattle, WA, Comment #397-1)

The National Park Service should establish a shuttle bus stop at the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“Add a shuttle bus stop at far end of the campground to encourage people not to drive in and out of the campground. A long walk to the store for groceries and supplies is daunting and it encourages people to drive because it is easier to transport their goods.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-32)

“Adding a shuttle stop at the west end of the campground would be convenient for those camping there.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-27)

The National Park Service should avoid providing additional shuttle buses in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Shuttle bus is good/adequate. No more buses in Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting Comment #265-93)

“I wouldn’t put more buses in Tuolumne Meadows. Not from Lee Vining/ in Tuolumne Meadows rather.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-52)

The National Park Service should provide means to transport bicycles on park shuttles and on Yosemite Area Regional Transit (YARTS) buses.

“All Park shuttles should be equipped with bicycle racks. Shuttle information such as stops and schedules, should be more widely posted and distributed to campers.”
(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-6)

“The free shuttle should have bike racks to allow for 1-way cycling.”
(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-2)

“YARTS should be designed to accommodate bicyclists and bikes.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-14)

The National Park Service should provide alternative transportation systems in the park.

“Consider enhanced transportation systems – maybe more convenient/often better advertised (like Glacier Pt.). Switzerland as an example for best practices for hiking transit....Build awareness of alternative transportation options and PROVIDE those options.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-36)

“Tram service from the Valley Floor should be added to relieve traffic.”
(Individual, Comment #235-4)

Out-of-Park Transportation Services & Facilities

The National Park Service should convert a portion of the existing gas station into a bus depot to service regional and park transit systems.

“The portion of the petrol station building now devoted to petrol retailing could be very valuably used instead as a much-needed, sheltered “Depot” for people to buy tickets and wait for public transport such as the YARTS busses linking people to the eastern Sierra, Yosemite Valley, and the San Joaquin Valley, as well as for the popular free Park Shuttle busses serving some of the Tuolumne high country.”
(Recreation Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-22)

The National Park Service should recognize that Yosemite Area Regional Transit (YARTS) is a “good thing.”

“YARTS is a good thing.”
(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-15)

The National Park Service should encourage Yosemite visitors to use YARTS.

“Have marketing for the YARTS shuttle that runs, so tourists coming from the city e.g. San Francisco can opt for public transportation to Yosemite. Perhaps post YARTS bus and how to get it, with schedules, on your visitor website.”

(Individual, Newbury, MA, Comment #90-1)

“In support of YARTS regional transit and other alternative modes for access to Yosemite, encourage multi-modal infrastructure projects that compliment the gateway communities, emphasize alternatives to the auto, and integrate joint use of facilities...”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-8)

“We favor encouraging visitation to and around these regions via public transport by expanding the existing public transport systems. This will improve air and water quality, reduce the noise and disturbance of traffic, and increase opportunities for access to these regions by those without, or preferring not to use, private vehicles. This will be especially helpful to backpackers, climbers, and other recreationists who want to explore the regions one-way or “point-to-point”, and avoid the need for parking private vehicles at each “point”.”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #299-24)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider the impacts of using buses to transport visitors to the park.

“Buses bring more people per hour into park. Increases magnitude of visitor load in resources and facilities.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-62)

Traffic and Vehicle Management System**The National Park Service should eliminate automobile use in the park.**

“Complete elimination of automobile traffic would have many secondary effects - less waste (packaging and cans, bottles, etc) less CO2, less HC, less NOX, no lead of an HC leaking gasoline situation - fewer paved areas ruining the wilderness.”

(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #57-1)

“Transportation solution for a post automobile YNP...”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-213)

The National Park Service should enforce and/or reduce speed limits.

“Speed limits need to be enforced to protect wildlife.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-13)

“Road: Speed is the biggest issue. People entering the park are often thinking of other things. They must be made aware at the entrance that they are entering a park, the speed limits are reduced, and they must slow down to enjoy the park and to protect the animals and themselves and others. There could be a large sign at the entrance indicating how many animals have been killed - in the current year or something like that. They could be required to sign a brief statement as they have been requiring in the campground for about the bears. Something has to get their attention. (I've heard that no bears have been killed by automobiles in the Tuolumne area in the past three years. However, there was a porcupine killed and, although I've seen many living bears, I've never seen a living porcupine. I think they are much more rare.) Having visitors sign a statement would slow down entrance even more at busy times. I don't have a solution for that. There would have to be some way to assure that a visitor is not asked more than once a visit as well.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-6)

“Keep the speed limit low.”

(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-5)

The National Park Service should consider creating speed bumps at some locations along the Tioga Road.

“The cops do their best to ticket speeding cars but they are understaffed. Cars do 60mph - need to lower speed limit to 40 mph rather than 45 mph. At Soda Springs crosswalk, a flashing yellow light could help or a speed bump (that would slow them down).”

(Individual, Frazier Park, CA, Comment #418-5)

“There is also a very abrupt drop in speed from 45 to 25 just west of one of those exits. The sign should be farther west. - speed bumps at some of the worst spots may be one idea. Speed monitoring devices that flash how fast a vehicle is moving do help, at least temporarily. They should be moved periodically.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-18)

The National Park Service should limit vehicle size on Tioga Road for safety considerations.

“My last comment has to do with large RVs on the Tioga Rd. This road is too narrow and these ultra-large vehicles are a safety hazard. Many are rentals driven by people without enough experience since no special license is required to drive them. I wonder if some thought could be put into limiting vehicle size on the Tioga Rd based on safety considerations.”

(Individual, Comment #115-10)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess impacts of buses and large vehicles on park roads.

“What are the differences/similarities between short wheel-based vs. long wheel-based model vehicles.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-60)

“There is a hint from news reports that 45-foot long busses and large motor homes may soon be traveling to TM and through it on Highway 120. How would these large vehicles and large capacity busses impact infrastructure and parking needs in TM?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-21)

The National Park Service should eliminate buses in Tuolumne Meadows.

“NO BUSES in Tuolumne Meadows, period.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-67)

“No buses in Tuolumne.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-86)

“Tour buses should not be invited to stop in Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #234-7)

The National Park Service should reduce or eliminate the number of vehicles around Parsons Memorial Lodge.

“Reduce or eliminate vehicles from the area around Parsons Memorial Lodge and the Cabin that has been used for many years by park volunteers. To let nature take its course vegetation wise rather than have a dusty parking lot. There looks like there are two old roads beds on the North side of the Meadow one goes to the sewer plant and I don't recall where the other leads to.”

(Individual, Comment #135-13)

The National Park Service should keep cars on the south side of the river.

“Cars and noise when returning from hiking along river doesn’t seem to go together. Perhaps keep cars away from river, keep to southside of river.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-45)

The National Park Service should consider providing informational signs at park entrances that inform visitors of congested traffic areas throughout the park.

“Consider signage at Park entrance points advising visitors (transient parking at Tuolumne Meadows full-through traffic only) will help avoid impacts and congestion that currently exists with uncontrolled parking.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-9)

The National Park Service should provide signage outside of the park that directs visitors to alternate destinations in the park if parking capacity is reached at Tuolumne Meadows.

“In terms of properly educating visitors to avoid traffic/parking jams, perhaps an “early alert” system could be employed. Once a capacity is reached for parking in Tuolumne, law-enforcement rangers could radio the gate to inform incoming visitors of alternate areas to visit or park. In addition, accompanying signage could also reflect the early alert system—instructing visitors of alternative areas to go. Thus, reducing resource damage, traffic jams, and disgruntled visitors.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-22)

The National Park Service should address traffic safety issues along the Tioga Road.

“Some rethinking of traffic flow on and off the main road and within the parking lots would be wise. They might be set back further with more of a frontage/buffer from the main road. Some of the marginal campsites that border the road might have to be sacrificed.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-3)

“The parking lot south of the road at Tioga Pass has very dangerous exits. Some vegetation should be removed.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-17)

“Dangerous driving could be reduced with increased signage on roads and the implementation of “speed humps” (if spring-time snow plows could accommodate the uneven road additions). Also, steps should be made to have consistent/accurate road signs.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-21)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address conflicts between different modes of transportation on park roads.

“Do cars conflict with other users of the roads such as bicycle, equestrian, pedestrian users in the river corridor? If so, what changes in the number or location of cans can help corrected or reduced these conflicts?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-59)

“Continue to enhance the safety and ease of traveling by bicycle, foot, and other non-motorized means.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #302-3)

Socioeconomic Considerations

Visitor Populations

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider both the type and number of visitors coming to the park.

“Any changes in the area should include consideration of the changes in the population- both the type of visitors and numbers.”

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #179-11)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider travel patterns and traditional vacation times.

“Travel patterns and the way people vacation needs to be considered in this plan. Traditional vacation times are an element to consider.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-20)

The National Park Service should purposefully attract low income, handicapped, and minority groups for employment in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Will additional low income, handicapped and minority groups be purposefully attracted by the National Park Service and by Yosemite Concession Services to and be hired for work on trails, at lodging, in campground jobs, in wildlife management, in visitor information staff, introduced to and instructed in enjoyment and protection of the Tuolumne River and its corridor?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-99)

The National Park Service should consider demographic data before making decisions about facilities within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Demographic data is absolutely needed before expansion/reduction, and conclusions/decisions can take place regarding facilities in the corridor (i.e. Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-34)

The National Park Service should provide for a diverse visitor population.

“Experienced by different groups of people (as many people that can; should be able to experience).”

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-21)

“Encourage diversity in visitor destinations and experiences. Provide facilities that support a diversity of visitors.”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-15)

“Also, camping is democratic. In campgrounds social distinctions account for little, and camping has the potential to bring people together in shared appreciation of their natural surroundings in a manner that reduces social barriers. The nation’s great parks such as Yosemite present an opportunity to be a force for social equality. Unfortunately, the lodging picture in YNP preserves the social distinctions of the greater society, rather than leveling them. This is true particularly in Yosemite Valley where luxury accommodations abound at the expense of camping opportunities.”

(Recreational Organization, CO, Comment #232-15)

Affected Communities and Regions

The National Park Service should consider that water is a key economic issue in California.

“The single biggest economic issue is water – CA should put \$ into state rivers.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-41)

The National Park Service should consider the importance of the Tioga Pass Resort to the winter experience in Tuolumne Meadows.

“TPR – the gateway to YOSE during the winter – it is wonderful to have it there. The parking down below is very important. Mixed feelings about snowcoaches, but love people being able to experience Tuolumne in the winter.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-76)

The National Park Service should consider the impacts to local communities from Tioga Road closures.

“Change in policy to open Tioga Road in early May – where was the environmental documentation/issues (people have died trying to rush the road being open). Pressure comes from other side of the mountain (Mono County) other political powers are pushing; not Groveland merchants.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-15)

“The financial impacts of the opening and closing of the pass on the economies of Inyo and Mono counties are tremendous. I would assume that the west side counties experience a certain amount of revenue decrease when the pass is closed, as well, but nothing to compare to the virtual shutdown of the entire town of Lee Vining.”
(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-13)

“Timing of road opening – need to plan with meadow recovery, but also considering socioeconomics. May be an educational component to this as well.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-71)

The National Park Service should strengthen relationships with gateway communities to aid with data gathering on visitors and visitor use patterns.

“Change methodology of how we conduct traffic counts. Strengthen relationships with gateways to help with data gathering related to visitors and visitor use.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-53)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts to gateway communities of establishing shuttle bus service and staging at Tuolumne Meadows.

“The Park Service’s plan for establishing shuttle bus service and staging at Tuolumne Meadows should be addressed (the County of Tuolumne is already on record concerning issues regarding mass transit tourism versus private vehicle access).”
(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, CA, Comment #256-7)

The National Park Service should work with the Mono County Local Transportation Commission [LTC] to guarantee opening and closing dates for Tioga Road.

“To facilitate visitor travel planning and provide some certainty for local gateway economies, the LTC should work with Yosemite National Park to guarantee opening and closing dates for Tioga Road (Highway 120 West).”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-19)

The National Park Service should consider the impact of planning decisions on the socioeconomics of the region.

“Park decisions and operations can affect gateway T.O.T. (tourist occupancy tax) revenue and revenue from all sources (small business, etc.) 2004 workshop addressed effects. Same visitor base in all Gateways Yosemite-Sierra Visitor Bureau goal to increase visitation, but we need to preserve it too (Organic Act) How are we balancing the assets? (natural, cultural, socioeconomic) Inventory assets? Imbalance? Balance?... Re-visit Yosemite National Park’s campground study (low impact camps study, site analysis on existing campground study – feasibility study for site design and site location). Traffic Management: Campgrounds lost in flood is a concern for Gateways... Whatever facilities/services are eliminated from park will go into gateways; some of that is good and may require capital investments, which may present challenges to gateways. We feed off each other; we feed off each other’s efforts. It’s a regional issue. We are an economic region... Communications with people outside the planning process. It’s important that we are “on the same page.” One AP article with miscommunication can cause disastrous effects (economically and otherwise).”

(Gateway Partners Meeting, Comment #129-1)

“Consider the impacts of making everything - the place – more “attractive”: amenities that draw people to areas around the park and resulting in growth in the surrounding communities.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-67)

“Consider impacts on TOT; emergency services; service excellence (facility and service experiences of visitors in the park) and how these affect market; park maintenance and not adding to current backlog (benign neglect is not an option) – factor in follow-up and remedial activities; visitor education and interpretation – make sure it is factored into the plan as a key component of CMP – it adds value when people see agency acting responsibly; visitor information services...timely and truthful, including CalTrans info.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-58)

The National Park Service should consider the impact of planning decisions on other agencies.

“Park plans affect other agency plans...It would be ideal to have continuity throughout corridor in planning effort...USFS river plans and ideas make it a seamless Wild and Scenic river, offering a variety of opportunity...It would be advantages to plan jointly. Drinking water issues with other agencies (SFPUC, MID, etc).”

(Gateway Partners Meeting, Comment #129-2)

The National Park Service should create a sociopolitical economic model to achieve balance.

“Try to achieve balance by structuring sociopolitical economical model. ... Work with SBC and within their principles...Work with Sonoran Institute to develop an economic/social/political/natural model.”

(Gateway Partners Meeting, Comment #129-3)

The National Park Service should consider the economic benefits to gateway communities from public transportation systems.

“The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) should be developed and implemented in a way that best supports local economies, including: a. Using YARTS to change visitor behavior to include longer stays in the Eastern Sierra. b. Encouraging Yosemite National Park to promote a policy of dispersing visitors to other areas in the Park and the gateway communities. c. Promoting YARTS marketing efforts to include information about gateway attractions.”

(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-16)

“A staging site [for park shuttles] in Lee Vining could provide an economic benefit to that gateway community.”

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-20)

Park Operations

Existing Conditions

The National Park Service should assess the adequacy of existing facility infrastructure throughout the project area.

“Single storm will wipe out telephone and electricity. Happens frequently. Entrance gate cannot have computerized cash system because of the threat of lines going down.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-236)

“Are electrical, phone, piped propane, water, solid waste removal and sewer infrastructure adequate now and for any planned increase in staff, employees and in some cases the main campground users and drive through visitors?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-27)

Management Direction

The National Park Service should improve coordination among park divisions.

“There should also be better coordination between various divisions within the NPS staff in the park. I speak as one who recently volunteered in the park.”

(Individual, Dunedin, FL, Comment #171-5)

The National Park Service should consider increasing salaries for park rangers and funding for trail maintenance.

“Also, please increase salaries for Rangers and continued trail maintenance.”

(Individual, Clifton, NJ, Comment #394-3)

The National Park Service should assess the costs of interpretive programs to inform the public about the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River and the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

“The source of wild and scenic rivers fascinates the public. What will it cost to add informational signs and teach rangers to talk about this wild and scenic river? What will evening programs cost to make and present every year that focus on the Tuolumne River including the use of HHV as a water supply reservoir?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-113)

The National Park Service should restrict domestic animals to areas within campgrounds only.

“No domestic animals outside campgrounds.”

(Individual, Comment #140-6)

The National Park Service should discourage visitors from bringing dogs to Tuolumne Meadows.

“I would enjoy the total absence of dogs in Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, Nevada City, CA, Comment #214-16)

“..although dogs are not allowed on trails or in meadows, etc, they are there fairly frequently. Most owners I encounter know the rules. An effort should be made to discourage people from bringing dogs. There is nothing for them to do in the park and they are a nuisance to others.”

(Individual, Eureka, CA, Comment #303-4)

“This last summer I have visited Cathedral peak and several other popular climbing sites and have found an increasing number of dogs running around. I personally like dogs but I understand the need for rules especially in places like Yosemite. There is need for more education and enforcement on this issue.”
(Individual, Truckee, CA, Comment #106-6)

The National Park Service should open some park trails to dogs.

“It would be wonderful to have a trail (or trails) in National Parks which allowed dogs on leash. Why are there no such trails?”
(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #340-1)

The National Park Service should provide resources to improve the water system and maintain the buildings in Tuolumne Meadows.

“The plan should provide resources to improve the water system and maintain buildings.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-80)

The National Park Service should consider alternatives to the impoundment on the Dana Fork as a domestic water supply source.

“Get rid of Dana Fork impoundment and come up with a better water source that does not rely on the affecting the free flow of the river.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-70)

“Can a horizontal collector system (horizontal wells) be used for a water supply for Tuolumne Meadows replacing the dam on Dana Fork?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-57)

“Where would the water supply source and location for Tuolumne Meadows be shifted from the diversion dam on Dana Fork? Would this replacement supply impact the Tuolumne River more or less than the Dana Fork diversion dam? Is our understand correct that domestic water diversion from Dana Fork is about 100,000 gallon per day for about three months a year at Tuolumne Meadows?”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #298-53)

The National Park Service should find an alternative water supply for the Tuolumne area.

“We think it would be helpful to find an alternative water supply...”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #298-40)

The National Park Service should restrict gas powered equipment in backcountry corridor areas.

“Implement a minimum tool policy in the backcountry river corridor areas that does not permit gas powered equipment. Electric powered equipment would be OK.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-2)

Roads, Trails, & Bridges

The National Park Service should avoid use of split rail fencing.

“DO NOT INSTALL SPLIT RAIL FENCES.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-77)

“I don’t want to see (while hiking) the split rail fences along the main hiking path (1/4 mi. away from Tuolumne Meadows store, gas station, etc.). I like to be a part of nature when I hike, so I don’t like split rail fences around, as it appears too man-made.”

(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-44)

The National Park Service should use granite rock for barriers.

“Consider Granite rock as fencing (i.e. barriers) rather than other natural or unknown materials.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #309-3)

Roads

The TRP/TMP EIS should address unsafe roadway conditions throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“I have driven by the Tuolumne Meadows area many times and each and every time there have been far too many cars parked on the shoulders of the road. This not only greatly reduces the visual aesthetics but is a safety hazard. I have had people walk out between the parked cars directly onto the road in front of my car and I have also had people open their doors, causing me to have to swerve to avoid their open doors. Bike lanes could greatly lessen the danger of someone getting hit while riding a bicycle on the highway. The danger of getting hit by an automobile has made me choose to never ride a bike in this part of the park.”

(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #1-3)

“My 10 year old daughter and I rode from the cmpgd to the vc on bikes and it felt very dangerous to be on the highway.”

(Individual, Arcata, CA, Comment #54-2)

“Safety improvements on Highway 120 in keeping with National Park theme – e.g. rock walls instead of guard rails.”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-40)

The National Park Service should avoid paving any new roads or parking lots.

“DO NOT pave anything new. No new roads or parking lots.”

(Individual, Sanger, CA, Comment #202-4)

The National Park Service should avoid road widening or other improvements to roadways.

“Maintain the existing road with no widening or other improvements.”

(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-4)

“I don't want to see the road get widened at all.”

(Individual, Watsonville, CA, Comment #99-12)

“Do not pave the main road shoulders, leave them graveled or dirt.”

(Individual, Sanger, CA, Comment #202-5)

The National Park Service should consider making improvements to Tioga Road, including a wider roadway, paved shoulders, and more guardrails.

“Please build into the roadway system as many guard rails as possible to make the trek up the mountain more comfortable for travelers. It's wonderful experiencing the final destinations but so scary getting here. This will probably be my last visit but I am enjoying your efforts thus far.”

(Individual, Long Beach, CA, Comment #169-1)

“Roads: The Tioga Pass road should be wider...A wider shoulder is needed all along the road.”

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-3)

“Widen roads and widen shoulders.”
(Individual, Mesa, AZ, Comment #456-2)

The National Park Service should relocate Tioga Road back to its original alignment.

“First suggestion - return the road between the pass and here at the meadows to the old one.”
(Individual, Port Angeles, WA, Comment #62-1)

“Changing the road back to the North side of the Meadow would also give improved excess to Parsons memorial lodge and the area know as Soda Springs.”
(Individual, Lubbock, TX, Comment #107-2)

“Better still would be to relocate the highway to it's original position on the North side. The location of the road to the South side of the Meadow was done either before or injunction with the building of the mess hall for the WPA or CCC when they worked in that area. The highway could be routed East by Lambert Dome and than turn back West as far as the visitor's Center so the facilities on the South of the highway could still be accessible.”
(Individual, Comment #135-6)

The National Park Service should remove Tioga Road.

“Would like to see the Tioga road removed from Olmstead Point to Tioga pass... was excited about imagining a ten mile hike into the meadows with no vehicles present.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-55)

“[N]o road to Tuolumne. There is one north and south of the park, why do we need one in the park?”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #307-7)

“To remove the Tioga road: number 120 with an active readobliteration program and to replace this road with a hiking trail only.”
(Individual, Minneapolis, MN, Comment #321-3)

The National Park Service should remove the dirt road leading to the Delaware North Corporation stables and restore the area to natural conditions.

“Restore the dirt road leading to the stables to a natural state.”
(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #144-2)

“Will the NPS consider the health and safety concerns of the dusty, asbestos/serpentine road base in this planning process?”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-24)

“The possibility of the gravel road from the highway to the stable being paved with 3 to 4% asbestos containing rock was mentioned at the Aug 29 walk-around. If this exceeds EPA or park limits, when will this road and the parking shoulder along it be paved or otherwise changed? What will any change cost?”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-43)

The National Park Service should address improved signage along Tioga Road in order to orient visitors to the area.

“Are there facilities available for the drive-through visitor, e.g. a sign to a restroom to lure them into short-term parking where they can't help viewing the Cathedral Range and Tuolumne River, feel the cool breeze, or see and hear the Dana Fork and see Mt Dana?”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-19)

“We feel that more clear road signs would be appropriate, especially for the benefit of newcomers to the meadows. Particularly in the areas leading into the Soda Springs and Lumbert Dome section.”
(Individual, Comment #186-1)

The National Park Service should assess avalanche hazards with respect to Tioga Road.

“Assess avalanche hazard with road – will it always be this way? Does it have to be? Old road used to avoid it.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-38)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the National Scenic Byway designation of Tioga Road.

“The TRP should address and incorporate the Scenic Byway designation of the Tioga Road in the planning process.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-9)

The National Park Service should create pedestrian-friendly resources throughout Tuolumne.

“Pedestrian-friendly resources (get from Point A to Point B without getting back in a car).”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-11)

The National Park Service should focus on accommodating alternative modes of transportation along Highway 120.

“Maintenance and improvement projects on Highway 120 should focus on accommodating alternative transportation modes.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-11)

“Improve opportunities for access by alternative modes (transit, bicycles, pedestrians, air, other non-auto modes).”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-7)

“Encourage Yosemite National Park, Caltrans, and Mono County to work cooperatively to develop bicycle facilities on Highway 120 both within and outside the Park.”
(Governmental Organization, Mono County, CA, Comment #200-12)

The National Park Service should remove asbestos from well-traveled roads and areas.

“Remove the asbestos from well traveled roads and areas.”
(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-8)

The National Park Service should be financially responsible for the annual opening of Tioga road.

“Park resources need to be put into road opening. The park shouldn’t need contribution of Mono County, a small rural county.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-39)

The National Park Service should adhere to the more restrictive provision of either the Wilderness Act and or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and construct only roads and bridges that are essential park operations.

“Since the Tuolumne River is designated Wild and Scenic with a corridor that is mostly in wilderness, we strongly suggest using the more stringent of the two management types when applicable. We are concerned that roadways and bridges be implemented only if absolutely essential to the area—not for convenience.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #288-11)

Trails

FOR ADDITIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING ACCESS POINTS, SEE 'VISITOR ACCESS', PAGE 88.

The National Park Service should remove social trails through the meadows and along the river.

"Eliminate redundant meadow trails."
(Individual, Bridgeport, CA, Comment #31-13)

"Try to eliminate social trails in Meadows."
(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #305-13)

The National Park Service should establish designated trails throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and meadows to prevent proliferation of social trails and trampling.

"Many visitors have no knowledge of the meadow's fragility, and unintentionally damage it by walking off-trail through wet areas, spilling onto the meadow in large groups from tour buses, putting up rows of lawn chairs on fragile river banks, playing Frisbee at Soda Springs, picnicking on the meadow in large family groups, playing baseball, and walking dogs through ground-squirrel habitat. Only two established and signed trails through the meadow (both leading to Soda Springs) offer visitors a way to explore this place. To compensate, people have created dozens of social trails – from the store to Parsons Lodge, along both riverbanks, to and around the back of Pothole Dome, and to the Tuolumne Cascades, among others. These trails crisscross fragile areas. They are heavily spiderwebbed and trenched in some areas, and they spawn new social trails stretching away from them in several directions."
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-9)

"Protect the river—stream banks are fragile and need to be protected from millions of feet. Popular river trails should be improved and designated rather than let countless "use trails" develop haphazardly. Encouraging visitors to hike along the river above and below the rivers might disperse use. However, this needs to be done carefully to protect the watershed and riparian environment."
(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-3)

"Prohibit social trail use and establish designated routes for meadow access and crossings. These requirements should minimize impacts to meadows in heavy use areas."
(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-11)

The National Park Service should reroute certain trails in Tuolumne to reduce impacts to resources.

"Also, the Muir Trail passes through the Tuolumne in the area near the general store, and this area, east and west for at least a quarter mile, is very messy with over-use paths that intersect all over the place. The Muir Trail should be clarified and routed around the main Tuolumne Meadows Road (and the general store). Please address this issue in the TRP and TMP EIS."
(Individual, Victorville, CA, Comment #157-2)

"[A] common impact is fishermen trails along the side of the river (through the meadows and along Lyell Fork in particular). These trails see a lot of use and proximity with the bank creating erosion. Potentially designate fisherman trails further from rivers' edge."
(Individual, Comment #21-6)

"Social trails run along the river in many areas. Near Soda Springs, I have seen large chunks of the bank cave in this summer, as a result of heavy use. We need to decide how to handle use trails along the river, either by maintaining or rerouting them, or by developing some other solution."
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-27)

The National Park Service should consolidate visitor access points and improve trailheads to reduce impacts to resources and enhance the visitor experience in Tuolumne.

“Visitor experience and environmental quality in the Tuolumne Meadows area would be greatly improved by consolidation of visitor and stock access. Currently, poor signage and lack of proper trail delineation at major trailheads (e.g. Parson's Lodge T.H. across from Visitor's Center) has led to large areas of denuded/impacted vegetation and disturbance (vector for invasive plant infestation) consolidation of access points and trails along with increased restoration and signage would greatly improve ecological function in these areas and enhance visitor experience through educational opportunities and increased ease of orientation.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #17-2)

The National Park Service should create a boardwalk system through Tuolumne Meadows to reduce proliferation of social trails and protect meadow resources.

“I am in favor of board walking in the meadows if that is what it takes to avoid the meadow turning into a mud and footprint field in early season.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #24-9)

“Remove all trails in the meadow and replace them with a boardwalk-type trail going around the meadow.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #131-1)

“Restrict activity in the meadow. Make wood/dirt pathways like some of the raised foot paths in the meadow on the valley floor, on the present trails. Restrict people from wondering through out the meadow.”
(Individual, Huntington Beach, CA, Comment #395-2)

The National Park Service should maintain trails throughout Tuolumne Meadows without the addition of a boardwalk system.

“No manufacture walk-ways/boardwalks like the Yosemite Falls project.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-27)

“Meadow and others: The gentle paths that lead through Tuolumne Meadows are amazing for their lack of constructed materials boardwalks, elevated walkways, bridges, etc...) It is one of the few places that a person can put feet into a meadow.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #234-2)

“Boardwalks, except for perhaps where the old Tioga Road cuts across the meadow to Soda Springs, would be visually intrusive and not necessarily effective in these meadows.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-13)

The National Park Service should provide more loop-trail systems throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows area.

“Provide: More loop-trail systems”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, CA, Comment #265-75)

“We hate to see people just walking out on the meadow trampling it. Perhaps a designated loop trail a bit more extensive than the current very limited official trails would encourage people to stay on the trails - especially if there were rocks to sit on to enjoy the view. The current main trail is very poorly laid out - it could use some serpentine element. Now its just an ugly road-like base strip.”
(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #425-11)

The National Park Service should develop bike paths and bike lanes within and around the Tuolumne Meadows area.

“Please consider putting bike trails between the visitor center, lodge, campground, store, and employee housing. This would encourage people to leave their cars at the campground/ lodge or housing area as well as greatly improving safety.”

(Individual, Arcata, CA, Comment #54-1)

“It would be a great advantage to have a bike path added along the fringes of the meadow. Biking is a quiet, non-polluting way to enjoy the area. Now there are no safe places to ride.”

(Individual, Napa CA, Comment #425-10)

“I think creating off-road bike paths and creating bike lanes next to the highway would be great additions to the Tuolumne Meadows area. Off-road paths would provide a great way to see this part of the park. Bike lanes would greatly lessen the danger of someone getting hit while riding a bicycle on the highway. The danger of getting hit by an automobile has made me choose to never ride a bike in this part of the park.”

(Individual, Bishop CA, Comment #1-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address needed trail maintenance throughout Tuolumne.

“The trail from Parsons Lodge heading toward the downhill part, then on to the level part (the most beautiful part) needs improvement - there are places where it is very difficult to cross the small streams flowing into the Tuolumne River. It is showing a lot of erosion, especially from humans, and there are places where the horses/mules must cross that also needs to be repaired.”

(Individual, Lincoln, CA, Comment #207-1)

“Increased trail maintenance. I realize this task is difficult given the weather conditions in this area of the park, but some of the trails have become almost obliterated (example is the trail around Lembert Dome that allows visitors to climb to the top). Trails should at least be checked when the pass is ready to open each spring.”

(Individual, Comment #28-10)

“Trail Maintenance must be given more funding. The condition of the trails around the Tuolumne area is appalling. If the trails were maintained every year the "four lane highway" phenomenon would not occur. When the trails get too deep from years of use, people make a second trail. If these trails were filled (at a high initial cost) and maintained (at a much less cost) each year most people would stick to the trail.”

(Individual, Comment #134-10)

The National Park Service should clear trails of fallen trees more quickly.

“Nine trees are down on the trail that travels from Tuolumne Meadows along the Tuolumne River to Pate Valley. These trees are blocking the trail between California Falls and the intersection of Pate Valley/White Wolf/Glen Aulin. Two of these trees are over 36 inches in diameter; the others are smaller but still blocking the trail. Bushes are also over growing on the trail causing difficulty for the hiker or horse rider.”

(Individual, Santa Rosa, CA, Comment #197-1)

“Off trail travel is also prominent when trees fall over the trails. Popular "front country" areas, such as the Twin Bridges of Lyell Fork area, are heavy use areas and should be attended to early in the season. (It is already the middle of July and the trails from the meadow to Lyell Fork and from the campground to Lyell Fork are still covered in down trees.) An additional sawyer team.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows, CA, Comment #21-9)

The National Park Service should improve trail markers to better manage visitor use, protect resources, and enhance the visitor experience.

“What services and facilities make this scenic run [from Tenaya Lake to Yosemite valley] enjoyable for me? Well-marked trails, of course. This year I missed a turn in a Forsythe trail ... I had to search for the trail. I was not the only one to miss the turn-off...No cairns marked the turn... trail standards are higher for Yosemite than elsewhere. I

expect better trails in National Parks than I do National Forests....even hikers would get lost at this false turn. Even though my safety wasn't compromised, I know the bad design created a potential hazard.”
(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-11)

“Trails should be clearly marked so that trampling of vegetation does not occur.”
(Individual, Jackson, CA, Comment #13-9)

“Trailheads should be easier to find. Trail signs are inadequate. Provide nice (rustic design) bulletin boards with maps.”
(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-13)

The National Park Service has been successful in delineating trails with directional signs.

“People have been very good about following signs and old trail are hardly noticeable.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-58)

“The currently posted signs and trail system around Tuolumne meadows seem effective in preventing trampling of the area.”
(Individual, San Diego, CA, Comment #163-4)

The National Park Service should design trails to suit long-distance runners.

“[I]f I designed the Tuolumne Meadow/River trails, I design them to suit runners. .. An appreciation of Yosemite on the run is very much a service that should be provided by the park. More attention to the running aspects of trails is needed. Trails need to accommodate both hikers and runners, or at least some trails need to be designed with runners in mind.”
(Individual, San Andreas, CA, Comment #313-13)

The National Park Service should consider removing the old road from Tioga Road to Parsons Memorial Lodge and converting it to a trail or boardwalk.

“Restore old roadbed (to natural conditions) from Tioga Road to Parsons Lodge – replace with boardwalk.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-60)

“Also, consider constructing a raised board walk for sections or the entire section of the trail from the Tioga road to Soda Springs and Parson's Lodge.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-13)

“I would like to see the road from north of the Lembert Dome picnic area to Soda Springs/Parsons Lodge closed. The area should be restored and the road transformed into a trail.”
(Individual, San Geronimo, CA, Comment #258-9)

The National Park Service should improve the trail to Parsons Memorial Lodge to better manage visitor traffic.

“Trail from road to Parsons Lodge. Main path should be improved. Signing needs improvement as people wander around wondering where to go, creating more social trails. Indicate the most direct route to Parsons Lodge.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-100)

The National Park Service should maintain unmarked fisherman's trails throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows area.

“I always enjoy the fisherman's trails. Keep them unmarked.”
(Individual, Fullerton, CA, Comment #335-1)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the need for a better pedestrian way across the Tuolumne River at Tioga Road bridge.

“Walking across the highway bridge was stressful because there is no place for pedestrians to walk except in the traffic lane and I couldn’t see the river nearby because of the necessary concrete bridge rail. In addition the walk along the highway from Lemberg Dome parking area to the store was stressful because there is no path for pedestrians to walk on except the narrow pavement edge or an uneven and narrow shoulder at a lower elevation.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-45)

The National Park Service should upgrade the Elizabeth Lake trail.

“The Elizabeth Lake Trail. I did YA re-veg restoration work around Elizabeth Lake and was up and down that trail from Tuolumne every day for one week, over a three year span. The trail is in bad shape and needs a serious plan for an upgrade.”
(Individual, Morgan Hill, CA, Comment #5-1)

The National Park Service should reroute the section of the Lyell Canyon trail that crosses a natural spring.

“There is one portion of the Lyell Canyon trail where the trail is built right through a natural spring. This is bad planning.”
(Individual, Comment #134-12)

The National Park Service should consider extending the trail through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne to the area where the Tuolumne River enters Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

“What do you love about the Tuolumne River? The trail through the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne to Pate Valley and up to White Wolf. The trail can be enhanced with a NEW TRAIL EXTENSION-ACCESS to the area where the Tuolumne River enters HH Reservoir and the Pate Valley area.”
(Individual, Comment #216-1)

The National Park Service should construct a trail from Tuolumne Pass to Tuolumne Meadows.

“A trail (walking) from there to here (Tuolumne Pass to Tuolumne Meadows) I think would be special. Have done it years ago.”
(Individual, Port Angeles, WA, Comment #62-3)

The National Park Service should consider that improvements to the trail to Pate Valley would have growth inducing impacts.

“Trail to Pate Valley is not a horse/people friendly trail – growth inducing impacts if were to be improved.”
(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-43)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address safety concerns on the trail to Glen Aulin.

“We were walking trail to Glen Aulin. The trail in many places are steep and slippery because of sand.”
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #26-1)

The National Park Service should consider creation of a new trail system at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

“Create Southwall trail at Hetchy for scenic vistas.”
(Individual, Mariposa Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #119-13)

“Want more trails around the reservoir.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-59)

“Love the trail network around the Hetch Hetchy area. Crowds low compared to rest of park.”
(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-78)

The National Park Service should develop a new trail system in the western portion of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Proposed Poopenaut Valley Trail. I submit that the considerable (but arguably not insurmountable) engineering and construction challenges on certain portions of the route would pale in comparison to the visitor experiences the trail would offer. Segment A. Mather R. S. to river corridor near Park’s boundary (RM 111). Views of canyon and river pools. Segment B. Boundary area to Canyon Ranch/Poopenaut Valley Trail terminus (approx. RM 114.7). Views from within Poopenaut Gorge and Poopenaut Valley. Segment C. Trail junction to dam (approx. RM 117.5) using the City’s maintenance roads where feasible. Views of Hetch Hetchy’s granite gateway, Hetchy Adit’s spoil pile, O’Shaughnessy Dam, discharge outlets and spillway. Segment D. End of maintenance road at South wall quarry (approx. RM 117.8) to Kolana Rock saddle (approx. RM 119.4). Views of reservoir and North wall of lower valley including simultaneous full length views of Tueeulala and Wapama (which falls Prof. Whitney described in some detail in the 1868 Geological Survey of California and about which view Muir waxed poetic in “The Yosemite” (1912)). From the saddle, views of the Tiltill and Rancheria watersheds including Rancheria Falls and Gorge. Segment E. Kolana Saddle to Smith Peak (approx. RM 121.7) generally via South wall ridgeline. Views of Falls Creek watershed, Hetch Hetchy Dome and lakes, Le Conte Point and Yosemite’s high country. Segment F. Smith Peak (elev. 7751’) to Harden Lake (approx. RM 125.5) along ridgeline joining the Smith Meadow trail before reaching the lake. Views of Sierra foothills, San Joaquin Valley, Lower Grand Canyon, and cascades on seasonal North wall streams. Signal Peak (formerly “Devil Peak”) (elev. 7079’) located above the Merced’s South Fork in the Sierra N.F. affords one a view, on extraordinarily clear days, over the Coast Range to breakers in the Pacific. Presumably the higher Smith Peak ridgeline offers similar views. Segment G. Harden Lake to RM 128.5 on the river using existing trails. A remarkable view from a summit not far off the trail at the East end of the Morrison Creek bench (approx. RM 126.5) permits one to view the upper 6 miles or so of the reservoir and, turning upstream, a similar view into Pate Valley, the Upper Grand Canyon and toward the Sierra’s crest.”
(Individual, Fresno, CA, Comment #343-4)

The National Park Service should manage the trail system within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor in a manner consistent with the classification of river segments.

“CSERC recommends that the trail system in the river corridor match the designation for the segment. If an area is wild, then the trail in that segment should have minimal visual impact, it should not make it easy to move through the mountains, and it should primarily be a clear directional path to move wild-seeking purists through the wilderness. In areas that are designated scenic, the river corridor zone should have trails that are still minimally intrusive, but a higher level of visibility and aids for users might be incorporated into the trail design and maintenance. Then in the recreational segment(s), trails may appropriately be easily seen, wider and more accessible, and aimed less at hiding their presence. Make trails and maintenance of trails tied to river segment classification.”
(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #251-6)

Bridges

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess the adequacy and condition of the Tioga Road Bridge in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Is the highway bridge adequate for the foreseeable traffic load, existing or desired pedestrian use, wheelchair use, bicycle use, or adversely affect (or be adversely affected by) river hydraulics? What is its expected life of the existing highway bridge?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-60)

Maintenance Operations

Facilities

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts of park facilities on the river (both inside and outside of the corridor).

“Will Tuolumne Meadows plan include impacts the campground and other facilities outside the river zone have on the river zone? And vice versa?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-119)

The National Park Service should consider snow loads when designing new facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Heavy snow loads need to be a consideration for whatever new facilities are constructed. I have shoveled tons of snow off of roofs up there—there has to be a better way to design buildings to shed snow or support the load. Consideration must be made for winter ranger operations—ease of movement between buildings, water supply, heat, etc.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-8)

The National Park Service should restore, improve and expand visitor facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“It's about time that Tuolumne Meadows was being updated. The facilities are a mess and the campground is horrible when it rains and thawing of the snow. Stuck in the mud!”

(Individual, Chula Vista, CA, Comment #212-4)

“I would like to see the existing facilities and services restored. Expansion of these are acceptable in small amounts. Do not compromise or endanger the environment.”

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-3)

“I believe facilities - campground, store, grill, etc - should be modernized and improved (not necessarily enlarged) to a higher standard that is more consistent with a world-class park. I believe visitors will show more respect for undeveloped areas if facilities set a higher standard of serviceability, cleanliness, etc.”

(Individual, Winthrop, WA, Comment #413-2)

The National Park Service should recognize that proper maintenance of facilities is needed.

“Had proper maintenance been done over the years, things would not be in the run down state that you say they are. Maintain what you already have and leave the rest undisturbed.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #220-3)

“Facilities are more run down than they were 15-20 years ago. They have not been kept up....Day-to-day maintenance needs to be done. It's been deferred.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #265-82)

“Provide more substantial and regular maintenance of existing structures (both tent and hard cabins) to keep them safe and livable.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #182-4)

The National Park Service should enforce harsher regulations on set-up and tear-down of National Park Service and Delaware North Corporation facilities.

“Enforce cleanup events and regulations on maintenance during set ups and tear downs for both DNC and NPS and in High Camps too.”

(Individual, Comment #20-3)

“Have harsher regulations on maintenance set-up and tear-downs on cleaning up after they’re done (NPS and DNC).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-203)

The National Park Service should address environmental impacts related to the set up and tear down of the Tuolumne Store each year and replace the existing structure with a permanent structure.

“Almost (if not) every year the [Tuolumne Store] frames are scraped and repainted. This most often is done at any moment available, driven by opening schedules and dry weather opportunities. These operations often occur when the wind is blowing the paint chips and/or over spray off into the surrounding area. Because the painting occurs in the early spring, many times there will be surface water nearby that's running off to the river, ready to carry whatever particles along with it. The work crews are not diligent in preventing this contaminated run off, and contribute to it by being careless with litter and garbage. To prevent this yearly recurring problem, a real building could be built, with an exterior facade (stone) that does not require painting. The building could be used for either storage or as a ski hut in winter, and would allow a more timely opening of services each spring to serve the visiting public, because the inside only set up should be less time consuming. Once built, the building would diminish environmental impact by eliminating yearly setup and tear down operations. If the tent frame is historic, perhaps the building could be built encompassing the original tent frame.”

(Individual, Yosemite West, Comment #226-1)

The National Park Service should consider having the employees who live in tent cabins set them up and tear them down each year.

“I understand that B and G feels the "put up" and "take down time" [of tent cabins] is an issue. My solution to this is to teach people who live here how to build and dismantle their own cabins. This also will give people more pride in where they live. I know it will be more difficult but the effort will be worth it.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #244-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess the adequacy and condition of staff workspaces and employee housing in Tuolumne.

“On Aug 29 I observed that the District Ranger Station looks suitably rustic and even quaint. The District Ranger told me that his working space was nearly adequate, but that his building needed rehabilitation. Discuss the adequacy of this and other staff workspaces, housing for staff and concessionaire employees and what rehabilitation is needed and what the cost and source of funds might be. I’m aware that there are many millions of dollars in deferred maintenance in the park.”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-28)

The National Park Service should retain mostly impermanent, soft-sided structures in Tuolumne to preserve the rustic feel of the area.

“Rustic, seasonal, soft-sided buildings should be retained for human infrastructure versus replacement with permanent structures. We favor preserving the seasonal, non-commercialized, rustic feeling of the Meadows Store and Grill area with its soft-sided buildings. These reinforce for visitors the clear sense that the purpose of these facilities is to serve as a minimalistic “Trailhead” or “Jumping off point” to explore the wilderness, NOT as a commercialized way-station nor as a retail shopping “destination”. The level of human infrastructure present in these sensitive regions should retain the sense that natural landscapes, soundscapes, and processes dominate, while “the hand of Man” is small and seasonal in these special, vulnerable river and meadows regions.”

(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-17)

“Maintain the "rustic" character of structures. No additional permanent structures. Continue the "principle" of tent structures.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #309-4)

“Permanent buildings=permanent problems.”
(Individual, Yosemite West, CA, Comment #333-1)

Restrooms

The National Park Service should upgrade restroom facilities in Tuolumne.

“Also, NPS should approve/require upgraded rest room.”
(Individual, Comment #109-5)

“Need better toilet facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-19)

“Would like to see better toilet facilities.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-41)

The National Park Service should prioritize maintenance of existing restroom facilities in Tuolumne.

“Instead of creating more “services” for visitors that produce consumption and waste, why not allocate more money for employees who clean and maintain the restrooms so that they may work more efficiently and with higher morale?”
(Individual, San Rafael, CA, Comment #29-7)

“Repair and upgrade toilet facilities (volunteers hear that as most frequent complaint).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-206)

“The restrooms at the grill and market need more care.”
(Individual, Elkton, CA, Comment #311-9)

The National Park Service should consider installation and use of vault toilets instead of flush toilets throughout Tuolumne.

“Would like to see portable toilets that are pumped out.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-43)

“The addition of vault toilets to many locations on the Tioga Rd is a welcome addition except the current design/maintenance that the odor in most of them is foul. I have been elsewhere where similar outhouses are free of such odors.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-5)

“I think the addition of Porta-Potties or permanent vault toilets at these lots is necessary, with a paint scheme to really blend in with the forest.”
(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #424-4)

The National Park Service should not increase the number of flush toilets in Tuolumne because of the pressure it will place on the water treatment system.

“Increased number of toilets = increased capacity of treatment system. Do not increase!”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-44)

The National Park Service should consider the use of composting toilets throughout Tuolumne.

“The planning process should investigate the use of solar composting toilets in Tuolumne. In some years the meadows campground cannot open due to water table issues that affect the septic system. Solar composting toilets would not have this problem and also do not require permanent structures such as piping systems.”

(Individual, Comment #115-5)

“[What kinds of services would you like to see offered, improved, or removed in Tuolumne Meadows?] Compost toilets.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-184)

“Would it be possible to convert the facilities at the campgrounds, tm lodge, and Lembert dome to composting toilets like at Vogelsang? It seems like that would greatly reduce the amount of sewage to deal with and Yosemite could and should be at the forefront of educating visitors about the impact we have.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-7)

The National Park Service should consider providing water and composting toilet facilities at trailheads throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Composting toilets should be installed at trailheads.”

(Individual, Carbondale, CO, Comment #50-2)

“Water should be available at trailheads.”

(Individual, Carbondale, CO, Comment #50-3)

The National Park Service should equip existing bathrooms throughout Tuolumne with lights and features (i.e., shelves, hooks, paper towels, soap) that provide a more user-friendly experience.

“Would like to see paper towels, soap, and lights put in the bathrooms in Tuolumne Meadows.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-44)

“Restrooms could easily be improved by providing mirrors and small shelves and hooks for putting towel, cup, toothbrush etc. Solar electricity could provide lighting that would come on with a timer or motion sensor to provide lighting for evening use.”

(Individual, Tempe, AZ, Comment #423-11)

The National Park Service should install fans in the restroom at the Tuolumne parking lot.

“The last bathroom as you come in from the East at the park entrance has a fan in it. The bathrooms in the Tuolumne Parking lot are in need of those fans.”

(Individual, Spring Valley, CA, Comment #415-1)

The National Park Service should retain restrooms without electricity in Tuolumne.

“Please no electric lights in the restrooms.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #214-17)

“[We like] no electricity in bathrooms.”

(Individual, Claremont, CA, Comment #229-8)

The National Park Service should add shower facilities to bathrooms in Tuolumne.

“...the bathrooms! DIRTY! Not clean, modern – need shower facilities.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-87)

“Better rest room facilities, i.e. not pay showers.”
(Individual, Redding, CA, Comment #436-1)

The National Park Service should expand the use of waterless urinals.

“Expand the use of waterless urinals.”
(Individual, Comment #188-3)

The National Park Service should retain the existing portable toilets at Sunrise trailhead.

“I appreciate the portable rest rooms at the Sunrise trail head.”
(Individual, Comment #147-4)

The National Park Service should install low-impact toilets at the Cathedral Lakes trailhead.

“Cathedral Lakes Trailhead: For good reason, the Park Service has installed bear boxes and portable toilets. However, the installation appears haphazard, as if it they are temporary and will not be needed in the future. The Park Service should consider building a raised solar bathroom facility – or some similar structure capable of surviving the winter and having the least amount of impact on the area, physically and visually.”
(Individual, San Fran cisco, CA, Comment #245-5)

The National Park Service should upgrade the toilets at the Lembert Dome parking area.

“Bathrooms at this Gravel Road: The bathrooms at this popular pullout need to be significantly upgraded to not only handle the existing demand, but to make their use a pleasant experience.”
(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-21)

“Bathrooms - keep bathrooms. Allow for something in addition to the Lembert Dome restroom (more there).”
(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #390-6)

“I took an informal count of the restroom facilities accessible to visitors driving through on Aug 29. I counted 12 fixtures for women, 12 for men and 3 specifically for handicapped men and women. The two vault toilets at Lembert Dome parking lot seem the least adequate for campers and visitors passing through, although extremely well located out of sight. Is this number of fixtures adequate for expected peak visitor use? None of these seem water use efficient except for the vault toilets.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-22)

The National Park Service should improve restroom facilities at Tenaya Lake.

“I know from experience that the restroom facilities at Tenaya Lake were inadequate in ca 2002 for the drive-through and day-use demand.”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-20)

The National Park Service should consider design guidelines and architectural consistency in the construction and replacement of restrooms throughout Tuolumne.

“Please do not underestimate the value of Architecture in the park...I believe that the concrete block restrooms in the campground and the restroom block at the Visitor's Center should be replaced with something more appropriate.”
(Individual, Santa Monica, CA, Comment #127-7)

“Replace the Visitor Center bathrooms. The present bathrooms at the Visitor Center need to be replaced with some that are architecturally similar to the Visitor Center.”
(Individual, Comment #134-19)

“The present bathrooms by the store need to be replaced with some that are architecturally similar to most of those in the campground.”

(Individual, Comment #150-7)

The National Park Service should construct flush toilets at U.S. Forest Service campgrounds near Tioga Pass.

“This may be a little out of scope for what you're considering, but it would be wonderful to provide flush toilets--nothing more--for several of the Forest Service campgrounds on the other side of Tioga Pass. That makes for a big difference in quality of camping experience.”

(Individual, Palo Alto, CA, Comment #259-8)

The National Park Service should construct composting toilets at Glen Aulin.

“Redesign Glen Aulin's water and sewage systems - replace with composting systems.”

(Individual, Comment #20-5)

“[A]ll the by-products of human occupancy are produced at the Glen Aulin camp: sewage (human body wastes), "gray water" from showers, grease and detergent from kitchens. But there are no wastewater or sewage treatment plants. Wastewater and sewage from these developments pollutes the meadows, soils, and waters of Yosemite National Park.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-3)

“Can we do composting toilets rather than flush (Glen Aulin, White Wolf, Tuolumne, as well as trail heads).”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #170-9)

Waste Collection and Disposal

The National Park Service should provide more trash and recycling bins and empty them more regularly.

“Need more recycling containers- if we expect people to recycle then we need to do a better job at removing the materials so people can actually use the containers.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Watershed Walk, Comment #125-33)

“Trash bin and recycling - seems like the recycling is always overflowing (large dumpster size in Hodgdon NPS housing area is wonderful "all in one" recycling) It works well there, can those go into campgrounds as well?”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #170-10)

“A second facility, which is not a conventional facility but is extremely important, is trash and recycling removal. I know in the past there has been much discussion about improving this facility, but not a thing has been done to improve it. Many days in the campground I stare at recyclables piled on the ground because the cans are too small to accommodate the amount of bottles and jars. Many days I have driven through the campground to pick up those bottles and jars in order to comply with food storage policy, but as I drive away with empty bottles and jars, the pile appears on the ground again. When walking through the campground talking to visitors to encourage proper food storage, I have been confronted with the trash and recycling problem: If the National Park Service can't store food items properly, why should they? Their point is valid. So how much do we care about our bears?”

(Individual, Redding, CA, Comment #253-8)

Wastewater Treatment

The National Park Service should construct a new wastewater treatment system that uses natural systems for Tuolumne Meadows.

"I'd like to see Yosemite NP employ a more advanced (but quite simple) method of wastewater treatment - has many benefits. This method saves energy and money, but also provides habitat and is aesthetically pleasing. There are examples of this in Southern California, as well as an exemplary treatment plant quite close. See "Green Sewage Plant Grows Greener" in the July 11, 2006 issue of the Oakland Tribune for information on the Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant."

(Conservation Organization, Modesto, CA, Comment #12-2)

"The upgrade of the Tuolumne Meadows sewage treatment plant should be redesigned as a state-of-the-art demonstration project for using natural wetland systems to treat sewage in cold climates. Surrounding communities (such as Lee Vining, which currently has only primary treatment) could benefit from this example. The park should play a leadership role in pioneering the use of this technology. It would be an excellent interpretive opportunity as well and help fulfill the park's mission."

(Individual, Comment #201-7)

The National Park Service should construct a sewage treatment system capable of discharging effluent into the river.

"Replace the old sewage treatment system (oxidation pond) with a high tech system to produce clean water at the effluent for discharge back into the Tuolumne River."

(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-9)

The National Park Service should maintain basic sewer facilities with minimal impact to the surrounding area.

"We are aware that major work needs to be done to some of the infrastructure, particularly the sewer system. By all means do what is necessary to maintain such basic facilities, but do it in a way that has minimal impact on the surrounding environment."

(Individual, Comment #217-6)

The National Park Service should design a new wastewater treatment facility to last at least 50 years.

"Sewage piping system and treatment facility should be designed to last at least 50 years without retrofit. It is not recommended to place water pipes in/under the roadbed as repairs are much more difficult."

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-5)

The National Park Service should design a new sewage treatment plant based on overnight and day use capacity.

"Modernize the sewage treatment plant as needed. Figure out the top overnight capacity, and attempt to estimate the day visitors, and base the size of the sewage treatment plant on those figures."

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-12)

The National Park Service should design a new sewage treatment facility based on current infrastructure and visitor use.

"The sewage treatment facility should be updated to provide for the current infrastructure - no more and no less."

(Individual, Jackson, CA, Comment #13-7)

“New sewage/water treatment system should address current needs and the number of stores/gas stations/visitor use. Accommodations should not increase.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-233)

The National Park Service should design a wastewater treatment facility that includes tertiary treatment.

“Upgrade the existing outdated wastewater treatment facility to tertiary standards and if at all possible remove current wastewater treatment components out of the present meadow area location. Suitable architectural structures compatible with the surroundings should be an important element in the wastewater treatment upgrade.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-10)

“The Park needs to immediately begin work on a tertiary treated sewage facility. The upgraded, expanded facility should be able to meet projected future demand 30 years into the future. We suggest that the capacity level be designed to handle at least a 25% increase above current maximum levels in order to ensure adequate capacity for uncertain future use.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, Comment #248-5)

“All facilities should treat to tertiary standards, even if the state does not require it.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-2)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address wastewater permitting and/or official orders.

“The NPS needs to address any issues relating to a waste discharge permit and/or any clean-up and abatement orders in this planning process.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Site Visit, Comment #266-4)

The National Park Service should recognize that existing wastewater treatment facilities are well sited.

“Another good area of Meadow management to maintain consolidation is in the sewage treatment. The current collecting facility along the Tioga Rd. is inconspicuous and not smelly. To think that it takes care of all the flushies in the Meadow area is amazing. The holding ponds too seem fairly well sited. Most visitors are oblivious to both. That's a good plan. As long as water quality nearby remains uncompromised the current plan (upgrading to laws and standards assumed) seems well conceived.”

(Individual, Merced, CA, Comment #272-10)

The National Park Service should maintain access to the sewage treatment ponds for bird watching.

“SEWAGE SYSTEM Though not a primary destination for most, the sewer ponds are much enjoyed by birdwatchers. Can public health concerns be met while allowing continued access?”

(Individual, Bishop, CA, Comment #348-7)

The National Park Service should build a new wastewater treatment plant near the Delaware North Corporation stables.

“Use water treatment area for visitor-related services not sewer facility. Re-locate sewer plant near DNC stables build new one.”

(Individual, Pacifica, CA, Comment #439-10)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address impacts related to the presence and location of the Recreational Vehicle (RV) dumping station in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Remove the RV Dump Station. The dump station for these vehicles is a major eyesore that should be removed. Private enterprise can provide for RV space and dumping needs outside the park boundary. This site could then be used for shuttle bus parking.”

(Individual, Comment #134-4)

“RV dump station is necessary. It's well shielded now and not an issue with most people. We have an RV and use it each time we're here.”

(Individual, Napa, CA, Comment #424-5)

The National Park Service should provide an additional dump/fill station at the wastewater treatment plant.

“Add additional dump/fill station at waste water treatment plant or other location.”

(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #10-6)

The National Park Service should relocate the sewage ponds and spray fields outside of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and meadows.

“Remove the sewer system holding ponds and spray field from the river corridor.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-12)

“Move the Sewage Holding Ponds and Sprayfields: Tuolumne Meadows is not an appropriate location for sewage holding ponds and sprayfields. These should be moved out of the meadow, perhaps to a location west of the Cathedral Lakes Trailhead on the south side of the road behind a screen of existing trees and, if necessary, with additional planted screening vegetation.”

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-6)

“There arises one small concern when I reflect on the Tuolumne River, and that is the sewage pond, very close in proximity to the river, located in the Tuolumne Meadows. I do not know much information on this subject, but it still amounts to some concern. If the goal of this plan is to keep the river healthy and flowing, it seems to me this sewage pond would impede the progress of that goal.”

(Individual, Redding, CA, Comment #253-3)

Visitor Protection Operations**The TRP/TMP EIS should consider commercial and emergency services in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.**

“Need to consider visitor experience beyond social factors – commercial factors, emergency services. Planning needs to take these into account. These may not be specifically called out in Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, but need to be considered as necessary for good management of park under the Organic Act. In the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and in Interagency Council guidance which discussed ORVs for the entire corridor, “ORVs” and how they’re defined implies a priority of all the factors.”

(Individual, Groveland Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #117-74)

The National Park Service should relocate helicopter operations outside of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Limit helicopter use to medical emergencies only within the river corridor. Remove any helicopter landing pads from the river corridor.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-6)

“Consider constructing a formal helipad with associated safety features—landing in the meadow in front of the station is unsafe. There have been several close calls as visitors blindly wander down the trail as a helicopter sits nearby with the blades rotating.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-11)

The National Park Service should construct a new Tuolumne District Ranger office that provides adequate facilities for division needs.

“Need new ranger office for all divisions. Centralized operation that can provide up-to-date work spaces and facilities (computers, Xerox machine, telephone system).”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-232)

“Office space—the present ranger station is inadequate for all the functions it must perform. I would suggest building a modern integrated office that incorporates space for the rescue cache and fire apparatus, ambulance and some winter equipment storage. There needs to be provision for sanitary cleaning of medical equipment. There also needs to be some space allotted for repairing equipment, etc. The present rescue cache was built under my watch using materials “appropriated” from the valley and whatever we could scrounge. We did the work ourselves because we were desperate for the space, having used an old generator shed for years. Perhaps the building could also provide office space for interpretation and maintenance, eliminating a hodge-podge of smaller buildings that have sprouted elsewhere.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-6)

Health and Safety

The National Park Service should develop a first aid station at Tuolumne Meadows.

“First aid station for small accidents.”

(Individual, Comment #42-7)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the safety management issue of illegal kayaking on the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Safety/management issue: currently kayakers are putting in the Grand Canyon AT NIGHT to avoid law enforcement.”

(Individual, San Francisco Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #145-54)

The National Park Service should provide a safe park experience for visitors.

“Make the park safe for visitors, too...Safety is paramount for animals and visitors.”

(Individual, Oceanside, CA, Comment #210-7)

“Feel safer if employees are around to contact.”

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-15)

The TRP/TMP EIS should evaluate the safety of all buildings in the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“ I think any buildings along the river should be evaluated for the safety of their systems and either moved or updated accordingly.”

(Individual, Calabasas, CA, Comment #278-4)

The TRP/TMP EIS should identify and consider national security concerns along the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Are there national security concerns about the highway in Tuolumne Meadows or to Hetch Hetchy Reservoir? How can they be carried on without impacting the river zone or Tuolumne meadows?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-62)

Fire Management

The TRP/TMP EIS should describe prescribed fire management practices within the project area.

“Will fire strategy for the river corridor be the same as in wilderness, and for the river corridor not in wilderness will it be the same as for the portion of Tuolumne Meadows not in wilderness?”
(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-42)

“The Park Service needs to address how its fire and smoke management strategies (landscape modifications) will coordinate and harmonize with the Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan.”
(Governmental Organization, Tuolumne County, CA, Comment #256-8)

The National Park Service should recognize that allowing campfires during the driest months of the year compromises the park’s wildland fire management policy.

“Allowing campfires during the driest months of the year is a dangerous compromise for the wildfire management policy of the park service and encourages a more casual public attitude to fire.”
(Individual, Australia, Comment #443-4)

The National Park Service should recognize that controlled burns destroy forests.

“Controlled burning is destroying our forests and the effect it has on animals is devastating.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #84-4)

“While prescribed burns or wildland fire ignition burns provide important ecological benefits in conifer stands within the watershed, that reality is that old, late seral state forest groves often lose old growth sugar pines due to cambium kill at the bases as fires burn through. Goal- balance the loss of so many Old Growth conifers with fire return frequency objectives by monitoring how many old growth trees are being lost/damaged.”
(Individual, Sonora Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #121-2)

Sustainable Practices

The National Park Service should use sustainable technology for buildings and parking lots.

“We also suggest implementing facilities that reduce water and energy needs and implementing “green” building practices if any new structures or refurbishing should take place. We also suggest implementing “green” building practices in parking areas. One example would be “gridded” cement parking lots, which are more permeable than concrete and allow for natural run-off.”
(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-8)

“Recycled or recyclable materials should be used for construction, infrastructure, and other needs whenever feasible. Energy efficiency should be incorporated into every part of the design and operation of human infrastructure in these regions.”
(Recreational Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #299-20)

“How can every man-made structure in the park utilize the latest cutting edge designs in renewable, sustainable, technology; (I’m also thinking of the valley) solar power, thermodynamic heating, composting toilets, bioswales, living roofs, campfires, and cookfires using little or now wood etc?”
(Individual, Springfield, OR, Comment #360-4)

The National Park Service should design sustainable, eco-friendly employee housing in Tuolumne.

“Sustainable eco-friendly housing: Work with architects and eco-designers to consider the environmental conditions of living in Tuolumne Meadows. Freezing cold nights, warm days, short season housing for 4-6 months of the year.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-16)

The National Park Service should use alternative fuels in shuttle buses and park vehicles to reduce vehicle emissions and impacts to resources.

“Shuttle busses & park vehicles using fossil fuels phased out, alternative fuels vehicles phased in (hydrogen, ethanol, biodiesel, natural gas).”
(Individual, Arcata, CA, Comment #73-1)

“Replace diesel shuttles with diesel/electric hybrids or electric shuttles to reduce pollution.”
(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-5)

“I don’t use shuttles much but would like to see them run more cleanly with less emissions.”
(Individual, Sebastopol, CA, Comment #409-3)

The National Park Service should install water conservation fixtures.

“[We think it would be helpful] to reduce wastewater volume by using water conserving measures and low flow fixtures. Few low flow water closets are seen in TM.”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-40)

“What water saving devices are and will be in use in Tuolumne Meadows to reduce the amount of wastewater produced?”
(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-54)

“Facilities that reduce water needs and usage such as composting toilets and efficient showerheads/faucets. We need to show the public that we don’t need to poop and pee in water.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-217)

The National Park Service should reduce use of water and minimize waste by replacing the existing flush toilets throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor with more efficient designs.

“I see no reason to have a sewer system. All toilets should be vault type. Flush systems pollute too much water, encourage development and require too much maintenance.”
(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-7)

“Some ideas to keep the sewer system development down to a minimum would be to install or better yet replace with composting toilets. These type of toilets have proven themselves in the backcountry through the years so there is no reason they can’t work in the front country. Some people get the idea of a foul smell and lack of hygiene with composting toilets, but that is only a rumor. These types of toilets can be washed and kept as scent free as flush toilets. By not having all of that flushing water we will decrease the need for such a large sewer system and hence help with the minimum tool needed for development.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #243-3)

“This idea of composting waste promotes a leave no trace lifestyle and Tuolumne is a great place to do this. We need visitors to see the government doing this so they want to do it themselves. We need to set an example of a large scale. Tuolumne is a great place to promote this due to its rustic feeling, primitive nature, and remote setting.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #243-4)

Concessioner Operations

The National Park Service should use park employees or non-profit construction companies for construction work in the park.

“Also, if any work/development is done, it should be done by park employees or non-profit construction companies. No corporations should be profiting from Yosemite and people shouldn't have to pad those profits by paying overpriced entrance fees.”
(Individual, Comment #64-7)

The National Park Service should replace the Delaware North Corporation with a non-profit concessionaire.

“DNC should be booted and replaced with a non-profit. Only the employees who are actually working here should be making any money.”
(Individual, Comment #64-8)

The National Park Service should address poor staffing of facilities in Tuolumne by the Delaware North Corporation.

“Question use of international workers by DNC replacing traditional college seasonals.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-116)

“Only staffed 50%...”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-117)

“I am deeply concerned with the so-called management of Tuolumne by DNC. The store - aaah - 2 employees and bare shelves, not enough staff. Positions that used to be filled by the college students recruited by the Park Service(?) or Curry are now filled by young people from other lands, who must sign a bizarre contract. Tuolumne Market - woefully understaffed.”
(Individual, San Rafael, CA, Comment #92-2)

The National Park Service should gain control of its concessioners.

“Get control of your concessions.”
(Individual, Alameda, CA, Comment #393-4)

The National Park Service should use a different concessioner in Tuolumne than in Yosemite Valley.

“Tuolumne should be operated under separate commercial use permit/contract from Yosemite Valley concession, etc. (e.g., someone from Lee Vining or Bishop). It's a different visitor use than in the valley.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-10)

The TRP/TMP EIS should plan for reduced development and commercial activity within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Most private land and far too much of our public land already suffers the effects of development and commercial exploitation. The last remaining repositories of our natural heritage---refuges from commercialization---are places

like the Tuolumne River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows. Please provide these areas more, not less, protection for the future. Make sure that all future management plans decrease the level of commercial activity in these areas.”
(Environmental Organization, Stonefort, IL, Comment #263-1)

Stock Use

Planning

The National Park Service should accept comments from representatives of many in the horse/stock use community as many were unable to comment because it is the height of the riding/packing season.

“Since this is the height of the riding/packing season and many are not available for comment, please accept that I speak for many who would endorse my input if able. Cell phones allowed me to speak to several folks who are at the Tuolumne group stock camp at this time, so this is, in fact, a group consensus.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #349-3)

The TRP/TMP EIS should include development of a stock management plan that addresses impacts and access issues throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Yosemite NP should pay attention to the volumes of recent research about the impacts of recreational stock animals, and adopt a modern management program for this high-impact activity, both at Tuolumne Meadows and all throughout the Tuolumne River watershed.”

(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-2)

“The NPS must adopt a management plan to decrease the impacts of commercial packstock activities. The management tools used by the NPS must include: Decreasing group sizes for commercial parties with stock; Terminating all native vegetation grazing; Designating specific campsites for parties with stock; Removing all stock-handling structures, such as corrals and picket lines; Requiring diapers on all pack and riding stock to reduce water and trail contamination from feed with herbicides and animal excrement that contains pharmaceutical agents.”

(Conservation Organization, Flagstaff, AZ, Comment #221-5)

“The NPS was directed by Congress to study and address the commercial use of stock and its impacts under the California Wilderness Act of 1984. (We would like to acknowledge the exemplary advocacy of the High Sierra Hikers' Association, HSHA, in urging changes in the Yosemite high country for more than 20 years; we have incorporated their analysis). A legal CMP should address these stock impacts thoroughly. Congress directed the NPS to do it.”

(Environmental Organization, Yosemite, CA, Comment #300-14)

The National Park Service should comply with National Park Service Management Policies with regard to commercial packstock enterprises.

“I am writing to comment on the Tuolumne River Plan and Tuolumne Meadows Plan. As a former ranger from 1983 to 1995, working in the backcountry for 10 of those years, I know how badly the NPS conducted the management of commercial packstock enterprises (CPEs) during the years I was there. Just look for yourself. Where can one find the use records up through 1995 of CPEs as required in the NPS Management Policies? Unfortunately, the answer is that they don't exist. Failure to have kept such records was misconduct with regard to the NPS Management Policies.”

(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #260-1)

The National Park Service should clearly describe the issues surrounding the policy change that allows for Commercial Packstock Enterprise (CPE) packtrips to end within Yosemite National Park.

“By authority given to the Superintendent in 36CFR1.5(a)(1), CPEs originating trips on the Forest Service land outside the Park were not allowed to end a packtrip inside the Park. However, as early as 1983, an occasional CPE trip would end at Tuolumne Mdws. and the stock would be trucked out of the Park. This practice gradually increased over the years until 1994 when CPEs began ending trips in the Park then putting new clients on the horses and starting a new trip within the Park. What was the deal there?”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #260-2)

“Speaking of FOIA requests, I had a chance to see one submitted by the High Sierra Hikers Association after 2002, clearly asking for all documents relating to packstock management and clearly asking for no portions to be left out. Among documents in the reply was the Wilderness Management Plan used during the period when CPEs were allowed to begin turnaround trips. I could see portions of the Wilderness Mgmt. Plan furnished had been deleted. Why did that happen? For comparison, I looked at my copy of the Wilderness Mgmt. Plan given to me when I was working in Yosemite and noted that the portion mentioning the restriction on commercial packstock enterprises not allowed to end trips in the Park was part of what had been deleted. This is another case of misconduct which suggests someone wants to hide what is going on in relation to stock management in Yosemite.”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #260-3)

“[C]onstruction on the Tioga Rd. created increased traffic hazard relating to the CPE stock truck traffic so, Yosemite asked that YCS board the CPE stock, thereby allowing new clients to drive in and ride the stock back out of the Park. This is nothing more than increasing impact on the wilderness for the purpose of mitigating traffic congestion. This violates NPS Mgmt. Policy as well as the Wilderness Act. I paraphrase here but those policies state that in the extreme case where impact is increased in Wilderness for purposes related to protecting life and limb, it is to be temporary only as long as necessary and is to be stopped when no longer necessary. So, the turn-around trips should have stopped when the road construction was finished. But they weren't and it another case of misconduct in relation to Wilderness Management.”
(Individual, Tucson, AZ, Comment #260-6)

Wilderness

The National Park Service should include commercial stock outfitters in the park's public backcountry permit system.

“Quotas and Permits for Commercial Stock Outfitters: The Yosemite backcountry, including portions of the Tuolumne River Wild & Scenic River corridor, is so popular that quotas on its use have been implemented to prevent unacceptable impacts. We support the implementation of restrictions designed to protect park, wilderness, and wild & scenic river values. However, we remain concerned that commercial outfitters are allowed easy access when the general public is turned away due to use quotas. .. Wherever rationing (i.e., a quota system) is necessary, commercial stock use shall be reduced to maximize the number of people allowed to enjoy the area.”
(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-16)

“In addition, all commercial outfitters (or their clients) should have to wait in line with the rest of the public to obtain wilderness reservations and permits. Commercial packstock enterprises should never be allowed to issue their own permits to conduct commercial operations in Yosemite National Park. (This is a ridiculous notion, and one that illustrates the unfair special treatment that commercial packers receive from land managers in some areas).”
(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-18)

“Be as strict as possible with issuing permits for mules and horses. They do significant trail damage which it takes the trail crew hours of labor to repair.”
(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-14)

Stock Camps and Stables

The National Park Service should retain the stock/horse camp in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“I'm writing to support the continuation of the group stock camp in this corridor, and the surrounding trails for stock use. Both camp trails are an established historical use.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #349-1)

“PROTECT the historic group horse camp from further size reduction. The stock camp has existed there for decades, and therefore must be a sustainable use. It's in an ORV area for camps and trails, the users are trained and motivated to use "leave no trace" techniques and many belong to Backcountry Horsemen who work closely with forest managers to help maintain trails and even camps of other user groups.”
(Individual, Mariposa CA, Comment #349-4)

The National Park Service should remove or relocate the stock/horse camp in Tuolumne Meadows Campground.

“RESTORE or RELOCATE the stock group camps eliminated.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #349-6)

“[Retain] Everything but stables/horse camp in campground because unnecessary impact – based on tradition alone (same groups use every year).”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting Comment #122-71)

“Stables/horse camp in campground is a limited use, doesn't provide for many people's enjoyment.”
(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-72)

The National Park Service should make public any studies done to justify the reduction of the stock camp in Tuolumne Meadows.

“A few years ago, the stock camp was reduced in size about 75% to the current four sites. To my knowledge, no scoping was done or science presented to support this reduction. Please review the reasons/science/studies this was based on. 1. INFORM the stock user group of what science/study was used to drastically reduce the historically established carrying capacity and overnight use of this corridor.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #349-2)

The National Park Service should remove or relocate the National Park Service and Delaware North Corporation stables out of the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Remove stock stables from the river corridor to assure surface water quality...Require stock camp outside the river corridor.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-3)

“[Eliminate] NPS and concessionaire stables...”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #283-6)

“I have a few suggestions about improving the visual landscape at Tuolumne Meadows. First, relocate the stables. The present location is a detriment to the natural landscape at the eastern end of Tuolumne Meadows. Being situated on an elevated hillside location, the stables facilities are visible over a wide area, and from a considerable distance. A better location is south of the Tioga Road, and further back in the forest where this visibility would not occur.”
(Individual, Los Angeles, CA, Comment #275-1)

The National Park Service should consider combining the National Park Service and Delaware North Corporation stables in Tuolumne Meadows.

“We also have concern with the proximity of the lower stables to the river and surrounding employee housing. We suggest investigating the possibility of housing both NPS and concessionaire stock at the upper stable to avoid further impact to the area.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-10)

“Stables - do NPS and concession stables need to be separate or could NPS move their operation to be near the DNC concession?”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #170-12)

“Consolidate the two existing stock facilities to a single site...”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-13)

The TRP/TMP EIS should retain the two stables facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Like having 2 stables, so that doesn’t concentrate environmental impacts.”

(Individual, Modesto Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #146-51)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the role and purpose of the stables in Tuolumne as support structures for the visitor experience.

“Discuss the role and purpose of stables as support structure for accommodation of the visitor experience of a diverse set of visitors and the utility for park operation of the stables. That is, do horses and pack animals have a positive or negative impact on the visitors who don’t ride horses or use facilities supported by pack animals, and would that impact be more positive or more negative if the NPS were the operator?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-52)

The National Park Service should evaluate the impacts of stock holding facilities throughout the planning area.

“The impacts of stock holding facilities must be evaluated. An environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared that clearly discloses the environmental consequences of, and alternatives to, the continued operation of stock holding facilities in the planning areas.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-46)

“Why is it okay to leave many pounds of waste of a non-native animal? How is this protection of a resource? - you tell me.”

(Individual, Novato, CA, Comment #47-2)

“Your environmental document must evaluate and disclose the effects of domestic animal wastes on the environment...”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-32)

The National Park Service should address maintenance of the stables operation in Tuolumne Meadows.

“The barn and corral are falling apart. There needs to be a stables operation in Tuolumne as it is a key location for backcountry operations as well as front country horse patrols.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-7)

Mitigating Impacts of Stock

Natural Resources

The TRP/TMP EIS should evaluate the impacts of stock on water quality throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows.

“Water quality impacts of stock animals. Stock urine and manure contribute to eutrophication of streams and lakes (Stanley et al. 1979). Such impacts are a significant concern in the oligotrophic aquatic environments of Yosemite National Park. Livestock manure can also pollute water with harmful bacteria and other organisms such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium, which are pathogenic to humans and other animals. (See, for example, Derlet and Carlson 2002 and 2006).”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-30)

“Please consider not allowing horses to stand in the rivers in Yosemite National Park as they do urinate and defecate. It would be great if they could just be on the land for the most part as sometimes you see people standing in the river on horseback.”

(Individual, Kihei, HI, Comment #114-1)

“[Y]our management plan(s) should include the following elements to minimize the amount of animal waste that reaches water courses: Campsites for stock users should be designated away from water, on level and dry sites. Stock users should be required to camp at these designated sites, and to keep their animals tied at all times when not in use. This will require stock users to carry feed for their animals, as is required in many other national parks. Managers should carefully select and designate campsites and hitching sites for such use (see Cole [1990], pp. 457-462).”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-34)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the substantial impacts of stock animals on meadows, streams, wetlands, and riparian areas throughout the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Impacts to meadows, stream zones, wetlands, and lakeshores. Numerous studies have documented adverse impacts to meadows caused by stock animals used for recreation (Cole 1977, Merkle 1963, Nagy and Scotter 1974, Neuman 1990 & 1991 a-b, Strand 1972, Strand 1979a-c, Sumner and Leonard 1947, Weaver and Dale 1978). Trampling and grazing by livestock are known to increase soil compaction and to contribute to streambank erosion, sedimentation, widening and shallowing of channels, elevated stream temperatures, and physical destruction of vegetation (Behnke and Ralieggh 1978, Bohn and Buckhouse 1985, Kauffman and Krueger 1984, Kauffman et al. 1983, Siekert et al. 1985). Streambanks and lakeshores are particularly susceptible to trampling because of their high moisture content (Marlow and Pogacnik 1985). Unstable streambanks lead to accelerated erosion and elevated instream sediment loads (Duff 1979, Winegar 1977). In sum, the impacts of recreational stock animals on meadows, streams, wetlands, and lakeshores are substantial, and need to be addressed in this planning process.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-20)

“What impact do pack animals and their waste have on the Tuolumne River and the Tuolumne River corridor?”

(Conservation Organizations, CA, Comment #298-50)

“Impacts of Recreational Stock Use: Parties traveling with stock animals have much greater impact on park, wilderness, and wild & scenic river resources and values than groups traveling on foot. The disproportionate amount of impact created by stock users must be much more limited and much better controlled.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-19)

The TRP/TMP EIS should address the issue of weeds and plant pathogens that may be spread by domestic stock animals.

“As outlined above, scientists have (in the past five to seven years) documented "overwhelming" evidence that domestic livestock (including horses, mules, etc.) can and do spread harmful weeds. This relatively new issue has never been adequately evaluated by the NPS at Yosemite. Therefore, your plans for the Tuolumne River and Tuolumne Meadows areas should address the issues of weeds and plant pathogens that may be spread by domestic stock animals.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-23)

The TRP/TMP EIS should assess the impact of the invasive Brown-headed cowbird and determine if the stables operations should be removed and stock use reduced to minimize any impacts.

“Brown-headed cowbirds did not occur in Tuolumne Meadows until the Concession stable where built at their current site in Tuolumne. They have been studied in the past, but what is the impact of these birds at the current time? Is this recreational facility, the stables, in conflict with the need to minimize or eliminate an invasive species?”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #284-3)

“Impacts of brown-headed cowbirds: The operation of livestock pack stations, stables, and corrals (i.e., stock holding areas) is contributing to the demise of songbird populations in the Sierra Nevada by creating artificial habitat for the parasitic brown-headed cowbird. Cowbirds are obligate brood parasites that can significantly impact native passerine species. One study in the northern Sierra found that up to 78 percent of warbler nests are parasitized by cowbirds, resulting in significant decreases in the reproductive success of those species (Airola 1986). Elsewhere in the Sierra, individual female cowbirds have been reported to lay an average of 30 eggs per season (Fleischer et al. 1987). These high rates of parasitism and fecundity by cowbirds indicate that significant local impacts occur wherever cowbird populations are present. Habitat modifications, pack stations, corrals, and the presence of livestock throughout the Sierra may contribute significantly to regional declines in songbird populations (Graber 1996). A detailed literature review on cowbird impacts is enclosed and incorporated by reference. The impacts of stock holding facilities must be evaluated. An environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared that clearly discloses the environmental consequences of, and alternatives to, the continued operation of stock holding facilities in the planning areas.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-36)

“Your management plan(s) should include the following elements to address the impacts of brown-headed cowbirds: Remove pack stations and stables from national park lands...: Reduce stock use to the minimum amount that is necessary.”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-37)

The National Park Service should prohibit grazing in the Tuolumne watershed.

“Prohibit all grazing in the Tuolumne watershed. This is necessary to protect water quality and to prevent trampling damage to sensitive wetlands, lakeshores, and meadows. It would also help to reduce the spread of exotic weeds.”

(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-4)

The National Park Service should require horse bags within the park.

“Requir[e] diapers on all pack and riding stock to reduce water and trail contamination from feed with herbicides and animal excrement that contains pharmaceutical agents.”

(Conservation Organization, Flagstaff, AZ, Comment #221-5)

“Enforce "a horse-bag-law"! To permanently hike in manure in this beautiful scenery is unnecessary and will not diminish the packers profit!”

(Individual, Comment #347-1)

“Pack animals have a huge impact on the wilderness, most of which is poop! I think it would be a great idea to put bags on the horses inside the park. The leave no trace principles that we regulate park visitors experience in the wilderness should be extended to the animals that we use for work and play inside the park's boundaries.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #385-1)

The National Park Service should require that all commercial stock outfits follow “Leave No Trace” ethics.

“Requir[e] all commercial stock outfits to follow all of the "Leave No Trace Skills and Ethics for Horse Use." This cannot be "recommended" guidance. It has been out for four years, and the packers are not following it. This needs to become mandatory, or the commercial outfits will not comply. (Reference: Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics, Horse Use Edition, November, 2002. Leave No Trace, Inc., Boulder, CO.) If they refuse to fully comply, they should not be permitted to operate within Yosemite NP.”
(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-3)

Visitor Experience

The National Park Service should consider the negative impacts to the visitor experience of stock use throughout Tuolumne.

“Aesthetic effects-adverse impacts on visitors' experience: We are also concerned about the many aesthetic impacts that result from stock use, such as the presence of annoying bells, dust, manure, urine, and flies, and the proliferation of unsightly hoofprints, drift fences, and overgrazed areas (see Absher 1979, Cole 1990, Stankey 1973, Watson et al. 1993). Most of the mitigation measures suggested above would have the added benefit of offsetting these "social" impacts. For instance, designating campsites for stock users would prevent sites used by hikers from being littered with stock manure. Tying stock and supplying feed will eliminate the need for bells and drift fences, prevent overgrazing and trampling of sensitive areas by stock, and reduce the pollution of surface waters by stock animal wastes (i.e., manure and urine). Designation of a network of "foot travel only" trails will provide hikers with a stock-free experience (i.e., no manure or dusty trails churned by stock, etc.). Adoption of group size limits based on science (see below, especially Cole 1989 & 1990, Watson et al. 1993) will reduce the impacts of large stock groups on the experience of hikers.”
(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-39)

“Not only does pack animal waste affect the watershed, it also affects visitor experiences! People walking around on trails and bike paths etc should not have to experience waste of any kind.”
(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #385-2)

The National Park Service should consider impacts to trails as a result of stock use.

“On a recent hike along the John Muir Trail from Donahue Pass to Tuolumne Meadows, I was saddened and shocked by the amount of damage that is caused by the mules and horses to the meadows and streams of Lyell Canyon. The meadow trails are pockmarked by the deep imprint of hooves. When the soil is soft and muddy, the horse or mule hooves can sink up to 24 inches. The next horse or mule in the line (who is no fool!) moves to the side of the hole caused by the previous animal and a new groove or trail is cut into the meadow. The animal hooves cause far more damage than hiker foot traffic.”
(Individual, Whittier, CA, Comment #314-1)

“I believe a full, major section of this Plan should be devoted to Stock to include: Overall trail usage by stock. It is well known that probably 90+% of trail effort by Park trail crews is on those trails used by stock. Face the reality that stock is hard on the environment. In the sensitive landscape of the High Country, the impacts are great and only too obvious! It's axiomatic that a poorly maintained trail in the High country is one not used by stock.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-20)

Access and Use

The National Park Service should recognize the recreational value of stock use and protect stock use and horseback riding within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“PROTECT the use of existing historic established stock trails. To my knowledge, there is no crowding or interference with other user groups, and I've not noticed or been apprised of any unacceptable level of environmental damage. Therefore, I believe it's been established that this corridor can sustain the previous level(before stock camp reduction) of stock use.”
(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #349-5)

“We love visiting the horses/mules and horse camp. Kids love seeing the horses along the trails and it provides a lot of excitement for them. Many of the horse campers are very generous and let kids pet them, feed them and even share pony rides.”

(Individual, Mission Viejo, CA, Comment #79-9)

“Stock use important historically, and there’s a segment of the population that enjoys this just as much as hiking – ‘you can see nature by horseback too’ – maybe can educate visitors more, but there are other activities that would use education too.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-6)

The National Park Service should reduce or eliminate commercial stock use in Tuolumne Meadows and within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Commercial outfitting seems out of scale in these areas for a national park. The NPS should reduce use of the Tuolumne Meadows/River areas by commercial packstock enterprises, and the NPS should adopt controls to reduce the impacts of commercial stock use (i.e., require smaller group sizes for parties with stock, prohibit all grazing, designate campsites for parties with stock, remove all stock-holding facilities (i.e., corrals) from park lands, require diapers on horses to reduce water/trail pollution, etc.).”

(Individual, Sequim, WA, Comment #222-4)

“As stewards of this public land, you must reduce use of the Tuolumne Meadows/River areas by commercial packstock enterprises. It is clear to everyone who cares about this land that the current level of abuse is unacceptable. You must adopt controls to reduce the impacts of these enterprises.”

(Environmental Organization, Stonefort, IL, Comment #263-3)

“It seems that commercial horse use of the area has increased markedly over the years. As mentioned, our preference would be to see commercial horse operations removed. A study should be undertaken to see how much private horse use could be allowed. Again, our preference would be for none. The area is just too susceptible to their impacts.”

(Conservation Organization, San Francisco, CA, Comment #295-1)

The National Park Service should eliminate all stock from Tuolumne Meadows and the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Absolutely no pack animals belong here! The historical use argument is nonsense - people have been only doing this for 150 years all of which have been documented to be destructive - objectively - current pack animals are destructive to trails, water quality and hygiene of humans - hikers are forced to hike through urine, feces, and the biting flies that go where these animals defecate. Then must stand aside while these trains of animals pass.”

(Individual, Novato, CA, Comment #47-1)

“HORSES and MULES Ideally, I’d like them out of the park. They tear up the trails something awful and foul the water. The park is surrounded by National Forest—land of many uses—let people on pack trips go there. “I do realize there’s cultural history linking them to the parks however, and that they carry heavy loads for workers in the backcountry. If you can’t totally get them out of the park, at least KEEP THEM OUT OF THE MEADOW!!! I would propose limiting them to just a few trails—say the High Sierra Camps loop, and the John Muir Trail except as they are used by Park Service for maintenance work.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-3)

“A primary focus of the Tuolumne Plan should be the elimination of horse and mule use. Pack trains have brought environmental havoc especially in the meadows areas. They bring in non-native plants in their droppings and have contaminated the lakes and streams. Surely, at this point of use horse mule pack trips have no justification for the continued destruction of our trails, meadows, streams, and lakes.”

(Individual, Berkeley, CA, Comment #411-1)

The National Park Service should restrict stock from using some trails or areas of the park.

“Limit horses to specific areas. Horse manure and hoof prints circled Elizabeth Lake, all around the perimeter- 1-2' from shoreline in some places. Horses en route to Glen Aulin one morning were walking off trail - 10 feet wide path! Horse manure was all over the meadow at the foot of Kuna Creek Falls, including near the river.”

(Individual, Sacramento, CA, Comment #213-13)

“Stock use is hard on meadows, trails, and the river. Heavily traveled trails – especially along Lyell Canyon and to the High Sierra camps – are ground to dusty canyons that are difficult to walk on and filled with dung. Stock turned out to feed in the meadows along the river eat fragile plant life, leave more dung, trample native animals' burrows, and damage water quality. One way to allow for this type of historical use is to prohibit off-trail travel, and limit stock to a very few trails.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-25)

“Designate some (even most) trails for “foot travel only.” I strongly object to the dust, manure, urine, and flies that pollute trails that are used by stock animals. Hikers should have some trails to get away from the stench (especially in our national parks), and stock should be confined to trails that are adequately designed, constructed, and maintained to fully withstand stock use.”

(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-6)

The National Park Service should consider consolidation of visitor and stock access points to improve visitor experience and environmental quality in the Tuolumne Meadows area.

“Visitor experience and environmental quality in the Tuolumne Meadows area would be greatly improved by consolidation of visitor and stock access. Currently, poor signage and lack of proper trail delineation at major trailheads (e.g. Parson's Lodge T.H. across from Visitor's Center) has led to large areas of denuded/impacted vegetation and disturbance (vector for invasive plant infestation) consolidation of access points and trails along with increased restoration and signage would greatly improve ecological function in these areas and enhance visitor experience through educational opportunities and increased ease of orientation.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #17-2)

The National Park Service should limit the group size of stock parties.

“Lower the number of stock allowed in a group. Current max is excessive.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-52)

“To mitigate these impacts of stock use, your Tuolumne River/Meadows management plan(s) should include the following elements: Groups using stock should be limited to ten or fewer animals per party (as suggested by Cole 1989 & 1990). To allow reasonable access for stock users, and to reduce the impacts of stock use on trails, some trails should be designated and maintained to withstand stock travel. Proper maintenance of these trails (and reconstruction where necessary) may reduce (but not offset) the impacts of stock travel. A network of “foot travel only” trails must be designated so that hikers can enjoy a stockfree experience. These trails should be maintained for foot travel only. Funds saved by designating a network of “foot travel only” trails could be used for intensive maintenance of the stock trails (see Cole [1990], p. 461).”

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-27)

“Number of stock animals per group. Dr. Cole has found that thresholds in group size that result in unacceptable impacts “...would certainly differ between backpackers and parties with stock” (Cole 1989). He adds that lower limits are necessary for stock parties, since they cause greater social and ecological impacts. Yosemite National

Park must acknowledge the available research findings and conclusions, and regulate hikers and stock users according to their varying degrees of impact. The current group size regulations in effect for Yosemite's backcountry-which employ the same limits for hikers and stock users-were arbitrarily adopted for "ease of Superintendent, Yosemite National Park, page 11 of 20 management." This scheme does not comply with either the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or the Park Service's own Organic Act or wilderness management policies... We propose that groups be limited to no more than head of stock per party in the Tuolumne River corridor and Tuolumne Meadows area (see Cole 1989 & 1990, Watson et al. 1993), and that all off-trail travel by stock be prohibited."

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-43)

The National Park Service should consider alternatives to horses and mules for stock operations.

"Horses, mules and typical stock animals must be phased out. Llamas used as stock animals seem to have less of an impact on the environment - that would need to be studied. But horses, mules, typical stock animals are an unbearable menace and entirely unacceptable."

(Individual, Comment #187-4)

"Reduce/eliminate horse packing to the High Sierra Camps (HSC). Replace with people packing in supplies for the HSC, like the Appalachian Mountain club does in the White Mountains in New Hampshire. Horses have a huge negative impact on the trails and the surrounding flora and fauna and their use should be reduced. There are probably thousands of high school and college student who would do the packing for next to nothing just for the chance to be in the park."

(Individual, Oakland, CA, Comment #178-1)

"Reduce or eliminate pack stock and equestrian access to the camps. Employ human porters in the Appalachian Mountain Club tradition. Encourage guests to carry camp supplies in their backpacks by offering rate discounts."

(Individual, Rancho Cordova, CA, Comment #315-14)

The National Park Service should require stock users to carry feed.

"Stock users should be required to carry feed (weed free) for their animals as is done in other national parks."

(Individual, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #218-4)

"Weed free feed must be required for all stock use."

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-13)

"Encourage use of certified weed free hay and straw. Cooperate with other agencies and the public in developing a certification program for weed free hay and straw. Phase in the program as certified weed free hay and straw becomes available. This standard and guideline applies to pack and saddle stock used by the public, livestock permittees, outfitter guide permittees, and local, State, and Federal agencies."

(Recreational Organization, South Lake Tahoe, CA, Comment #342-21)

Safety Issues

The National Park Service should screen recreational stock to assess the risks and dangers of having inexperienced animals on trails.

"Can a screening process happen to assess the risks/dangers of having inexperienced animals on these steep trails"

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #26-2)

Employee Housing

Community Character

The TRP/TMP EIS should acknowledge the sense of community created by existing employee housing areas.

“Living in a tent cabin is a rare experience and often life-changing. Tent cabins engender a sense of community (interdivisional, even) in the largest meaning of the word—people in relationship with each other and place. In a tent cabin, you know you are in Tuolumne. It’s an expansive sensory experience, an alert connection with all that’s going on: rain, river fluctuations, robin song in the morning, moonlight shadows, sunlight and temperature changes, neighbors... It is an absolute privilege to live in Tuolumne Meadows, this wilderness outpost. To live lightly and simply is an obligation. It is also a joy and a big reason why many of us work here and return summer after summer. The staff, as a result, is committed, knowledgeable, and skilled.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-5)

“In addition, part of what makes Tuolumne special is the community that it gives rise to each year, and part of that community results from employees living so close to where they work, from being fully in Tuolumne.”

(Individual, Comment #217-5)

“There is a vibrant and cohesive community established in Tuolumne’s current housing areas. Employees from different divisions and employers interact and mingle as neighbors in this tight-knit community of people, all of whom have in common their love for Tuolumne Meadows. Moving housing to a distant dorm complex or apartment units, and creating long commutes for staff, would drastically alter the fabric of these relationships.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #183-10)

Adequacy of Housing

The TRP/TMP EIS should address winter occupation and the adequacy of the winter facilities in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Explain how winter occupation is necessary or useful in TM? I understand there are two people here in winter. Are winter quarters adequate?”

(Individual, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #297-26)

The National Park Service should provide additional seasonal employee housing in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Employees assigned to TM should have housing in TM - not living out of cars setting a bad example for visitors, which is current management. Build more temporary (tent cabins) employee housing and maintain current.”

(Individual, Midpines, CA, Comment #10-9)

“We need more employee housing – at least 8 NPS seasonals having to sleep in their cars, etc.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-241)

“Need more seasonal employee housing (NPS and DNC) but similar style (tent cabins, etc).”

(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-26)

The National Park Service should keep existing employee housing the same, however better maintenance is warranted.

“Most long-term returning Tuolumne employees and visitors are NOT pushing for major changes and “improvements” to the housing and facilities we currently have. I would guess that a large percentage of planning comments ask the NPS to “keep things the same... don’t change anything!” A few minor improvements coupled with better maintenance of existing facilities is warranted. A major overhaul and change to current facilities would condemn us all to many years of ugly and noisy heavy destruction and re-construction of a system that is NOT currently broken.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #183-12)

“Whatever housing is provided, it should be made safe (e.g. by mouseproofing as much as possible to prevent hantavirus exposure, repairing floors, removing peeling paint) and able to provide warmth (i.e. the pellet stoves should be repaired or replaced).”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-30)

“The current housing situation in Tuolumne Meadows is NOT broken. Most employees return year after year, despite the simple rustic nature of the housing.... and love their summer experience! The housing situation could certainly use some minor adjustments, improvements, and fine-tuning, but a major overhaul and massive change is not warranted at this time.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #182-5)

The National Park Service should provide conditions that attract qualified personnel to serve in Tuolumne Meadows.

“Need to consider what employees need in terms of service.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #123-59)

“Provide conditions that will draw qualified NPS rangers to serve in the meadows.”

(Individual, Comment #140-10)

Location of Housing

The National Park Service should maintain employee housing in Tuolumne Meadows, rather than moving it outside of the park boundary.

“I believe that living in Tuolumne Meadows and in tent cabins is important for employees of Tuolumne Meadows, and that living outside the park or in dorms would be a bad idea. If employees were moved out of the park, or even outside of Tuolumne Meadows, for housing, employees would lose their connection to Tuolumne Meadows. It would be less environmentally friendly, as people would have to commute. This would also increase traffic at the already busy Tioga Pass entrance station. Construction of new housing would be an added expense versus the current housing in Tuolumne housing. Also it would be difficult to build in the towns in the Eastern Sierra because of land ownership and high cost of land and construction.”

(Individual, Blacksburg, VA, Comment #231-9)

“Housing: Keep rangers and concession employee housing in Tuolumne. It cuts down on commuting, gas money, time, and gives employees a perspective of living in the area that also translates to knowing the place and being able to share and relate this place better to visitors.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-15)

“Above all, DO NOT move the employee housing to Lee Vining! In addition to the ridiculous environmental impacts such a move would have, there would be a harmful cultural impact. Currently, the rangers and their families are a core part of the TM community. Their presence outside work hours gives the meadows some continuity. They belong to the place. Plus, they deserve a perk for their hard work, long hours...They’re around on their time off—exploring, learning, observing. They know what wildflowers are blooming where, when etc. It would also be impractical. I love the early morning (7am) ranger walks and the nighttime (9:30) stargazing. What rangers are going to want to drive home after that?”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #164-5)

The National Park Service should consider moving non-essential employee housing outside of the park boundary.

“Non-essential employee housing units should be relocated to the greatest extent possible to out of park venues near Lee Vining.”

(Individual, El Dorado Hills, CA, Comment #233-18)

“If replacement housing is sought, we suggest exploring the possibility of non-emergency personnel housing outside of the park (e.g.: Lee Vining). However, it is also suggested that all resulting impacts be fully explored prior to implementation (e.g.: economic impacts to Lee Vining, subsidizing additional transportation costs to relocated employees, and other resulting factors).”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-3)

“Housing: Keep housing for employees in TM. Some researchers/partners on temp assignment, volunteers, and employees can be housed in Lee Vining.”

(Individual, San Francisco, CA, Comment #390-8)

The National Park Service should relocate employee housing from Tuolumne to Lee Vining.

“I would like to see all employee housing moved to Lee Vining or elsewhere.”

(Individual, Elk Grove, CA, Comment #34-8)

“Remove all other housing and services to Lee Vining.”

(Individual, Palmdale, CA, Comment #161-4)

“Perhaps have some non-essential service housing in Lee Vining.”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-234)

The TRP/TMP EIS should consider the impacts to resources and employee safety and morale of moving employee housing to a location outside the park that would require employees to commute to Tuolumne.

“I’ve heard suggestions that staff be moved out of Tuolumne in order to reduce our footprint in the park. However, if fewer staff live in the area to protect it and educate visitors about it, more (typically unintentional) damage by visitors is likely to occur. In addition, moving staff to Lee Vining would cause impact on another natural area, and add to greenhouse gas emissions as well. It would also crush employee morale, an important Tuolumne asset. It’s beneficial for Tuolumne staff to live in Tuolumne in several ways: For the park: living where we work allows us to know this place intimately, to sense changes that are occurring here, to take actions to protect the place, and to interpret both the changes and those actions to other staff and to park visitors. If we were to live elsewhere, we would not notice those changes (e.g. differences in weather, visitor use, wildlife behavior, etc.) before they became too great to respond to effectively. For visitors: If we live here, we can respond quickly to visitor emergencies, give correct and detailed information about how to enjoy and protect the park, and give visitors a clearer sense of this place and its value to them and to humanity.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-29)

“For staff: If we commute, we would lose precious time and gas traveling on a dangerous road that has more than enough traffic already. We would be less likely to spend our days off getting to know Tuolumne. Instead of a passionate way of life, working here would become a job. (I’ve seen this happen in Yosemite Valley as a result of long commutes.)”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-31)

The National Park Service should recognize the transportation hardships that would be encountered by employees if housing were to be moved outside of the park boundary.

“We also heard about an idea to move employee housing outside the park, somewhere around Lee Vining; this seems like a particularly bad idea. It would increase traffic congestion over the Tioga Pass, add to pollution in the park, create a hardship for employees, and increase the risk of traffic accidents.”

(Individual, Comment #217-5)

“I understand there is talk about moving employee housing down to Lee Vining. I consider this one of the worst ideas the park service could consider for a number of reasons. First, the Tioga Pass closes multiple times throughout the summer for such things as rockslide, hail, snow, wind, and rain. If employees were housed down the grade, what happens when the road closes? Second, many employees do not have cars, how will they get to work? Those that do have cars can barely make it up the pass in what they have. There is also the danger factor, the Tioga Road along the pass is one of the most dangerous roads in this area, asking NPS employees to drive it everyday shows little concern for our safety. Another deterrent from choosing this option is the gas prices. The east side has one of the highest gas prices in all of California, many of us don't make enough to spend 4.00 per gallon to drive up and down the pass.”

(Individual, Redding, CA, Comment #253-10)

“Moving employee housing off-site, such as to Lee Vining, would cause many more problems than it might solve. Employees would be forced into a long and tedious commute on a dangerous winding mountain road choked with tourist vehicles. Increased traffic and congestion at the entrance gate would necessitate an expansion of roadway lanes and kiosks at Tioga Pass. The huge number of employee vehicles commuting into the park would increase air and noise pollution. As it is now, the majority of employees, both NPS and DNC, live close enough to their job site that they can walk, bike or take the shuttle bus to work.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #183-9)

The National Park Service should relocate employee housing away from the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River.

“Redesign locations of the tents that are very close to Lodge. The employee tents are right on the river and there is a huge ugly dirt lot that serves no purpose. Take out dirt lot and move employee tents closer to the paved lot and restore river side...Lodge employee housing redesigned taken back from river.”

(Individual, Comment #20-1)

“I support whatever changes need to be made to comply with Wild and Scenic River legislation. It seems – at a minimum – this would require: Removal of current employee tent housing now too close to the river.”

(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-13)

The National Park Service should remove all employee housing from within the Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River corridor.

“Remove all employee housing from the river corridor. It is not essential it be located within the corridor.”

(Individual, Mariposa, CA, Comment #113-10)

The National Park Service should consider moving the entire employee complex further from public view.

“Consider moving the entire employee complex to another location—I'm not sure where but the present location leaves much to be desired. It is tucked under the Tioga Road with all the traffic noise and there isn't much privacy from public intrusions.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-9)

“Perhaps have housing operations in other areas, tucked away from public and public view (i.e. old dump). There have been proposals in the past. What happened to them?”

(Individual, Tuolumne Meadows Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #122-233)

“I believe a good location (for employee housing) would be ... east of the backpacker/ overflow parking lot.”
(Individual, Playa del Rey, CA, Comment #199-18)

The National Park Service should maintain dispersed employee housing in Tuolumne.

“One of the great things about the dispersed layout of buildings in Tuolumne is that you can stand on a dome or mountain peak and not see huge complexes of buildings. Dormitory style housing would impede scenic views and would affect vegetation and watershed much more than current situation. A dormitory for housing would be very expensive and I feel that such an expense is not necessary for such a short season.”
(Individual, Blacksburg, VA, Comment #231-11)

“Keep the simple, dispersed tent cabins as the housing option for most divisions.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #182-1)

“The housing areas, and other minor developments, are small-scale, well-dispersed and nestled into the forest cover. Housing is simple and temporary in nature. There is no large and concentrated ‘mall complex’ as is found in urbanized Yosemite Valley. Human inhabitants are indeed ‘visitors that do not remain.’”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #183-2)

The National Park Service in Yosemite should work with Devil’s Postpile National Monument to address employee housing issues for the eastern Sierra Nevada.

“Work with Devil’s Postpile to address employee housing shortage/issues for eastern sierra.”
(Individual, Lee Vining Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #118-42)

The National Park Service should consider that employee housing at Curry Village in Yosemite Valley is located in a known rockfall zone.

“Curry housing is in a known rockfall.”
(Individual, Oakhurst Public Scoping Meeting, Comment #120-89)

Types of Housing

The National Park Service should acknowledge that many employees enjoy living in rustic housing.

“Visitors (and employees) come to National Parks because they are not cities or suburbs with condos/dorms/apartments. Employees who desire more amenities have places like that where they can work, and we should have a place, like Tuolumne Meadows, where rangers can go to experience rustic living in a beautiful, similar environment.”
(Individual, Blacksburg, VA, Comment #231-8)

“Employees and visitors do NOT keep returning to Tuolumne for plush accommodations and fancy resort housing. They do not return for contrived entertainment and artificial experiences. They return for simple natural experiences... to climb, to fish, to hike, to view wildlife, to stroll in solitude by the river just a few steps away from the unobtrusive tent cabins nestled in the forest. In my opinion, modern condo-like facilities, such as those just built at Curry Village, would degrade rather than enhance the Tuolumne experience for both employees and visitors.”
(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #181-5)

“I also believe that the tent cabins are the embodiment of the employee community and are suitable to the environment and atmosphere of Tuolumne Meadows...I believe that the tent cabins in Tuolumne Meadows are vital to employee housing in Tuolumne Meadows...The environment is fragile and this is why temporary, non-winterized cabins are an essential part of this environment. Employees only live here 4 months out of the year, so more lavish

accommodations are not needed. Employees who live in Tuolumne Meadows work here because it is rustic and surrounded by wilderness. Most people don't want or need permanent structures with many amenities. Living in a cabin with a canvas roof, pellet stoves and bear lockers fits with the environment and allows rangers the opportunity to "camp out" like many visitors do. This is part of what Tuolumne Meadows is all about-fitting in with the environment."

(Individual, Blacksburg, VA, Comment #231-3)

The National Park Service should recognize that tent cabins or non-permanent housing respects the seasonal nature of Tuolumne.

"Simple and ephemeral, tent cabins are compatible with living seasonally on the edge of High Sierra wilderness within a national park. (Ranger Camp exists on a sliver of land between two roads with wilderness just beyond.) They are a Yosemite tradition and signature—different from anywhere else. Keeping them would not be for nostalgic reasons, but, rather, an acknowledgement of where we are and our position as transient visitors."

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-4)

"Specific actions to consider include: Housing structures are not needed year-round and thus seasonal housing structures make sense as a way to reduce the permanent structure footprint. In addition, using tent cabins helps emphasize a message to visitors that Tuolumne is a sensitive area and that the Park Service is acknowledging this by its own actions."

(Environmental Organization, Lee Vining, CA, Comment #320-10)

The National Park Service should avoid building apartment style employee housing.

"The interpretive rangers presently live each season in canvas sided tent cabins. Apparently there is some interest in building something akin to the "projects" inside the park. Both ideas are disturbingly shortsighted. This is a wilderness area. Building apartments in this area is incredibly lame not to mention environmentally reprehensible."

(Individual, Comment #187-5)

The National Park Service should replace existing employee housing behind the Tuolumne Meadows gas station with low visibility/low-impact structures.

"Our Center believe[s] that the Park should build appropriate employee housing to accommodate the gas station workers by placing a low visibility, low impact structure close to and behind the gas station. The tent cabins, bright flagging, and sloppy appearance of the current temporary housing is not attractive."

(Environmental Organization, Twain Harte, CA, Comment #248-17)

The National Park Service should provide permanent housing accommodations for law enforcement personnel.

"Several Law Enforcement personnel have indicated that they desire more modern housing facilities. They often work earlier and later in the season, enduring colder weather conditions. They also can be involved in more stressful work situations, search-and-rescue operations, and are required to contact and deal with the more "challenging" park visitors. If tent cabins do not provide adequate housing for the needs of law enforcement personnel, then those needs should certainly be addressed....Improve and/or replace several law enforcement housing units in their present location to meet the needs of the law enforcement division."

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #182-3)

"[Hard-sided cabins] would be ideal for law-enforcement rangers and other staff who need a private place to retreat from the rigors of shift work or challenging interactions with visitors. In addition, they would provide more warmth and comfort during the blustery shoulder seasons."

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-30)

"Provide cabins for law enforcement whose high intensity jobs might be made less stressful by having conventional housing. These structures should be attractive, appropriate to the setting, and if possible hidden from public view."

(Individual, Santa Barbara, CA, Comment #350-7)

The National Park Service should offer more permanent type housing accommodations for employees.

“The government housing complex—“tent city” is a disgrace. The time has come to provide employees with decent living and working facilities. My suggestion is to construct individual cabins and a dorm complex. Central bath and shower facilities are ok. There should at least be hot/cold running water in the cabins. Denali and many other parks have done this and it works well. You can’t expect people to live in ragged tents like migrant workers in today’s world.”

(Individual, Bozeman, MT, Comment #190-5)

“I wish more attention could be given to well-thought-out and high quality design, building, and maintenance of hard-sided cabins and tent cabins—the foundations, floors, stoves, mouse holes, peeling paint...They could be sturdy, beautiful, and cutting-edge in simplicity and sustainability.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #271-7)

“While “rustic” and appropriate for the area’s primitive ambiance, housing is grossly outdated and poses a major burden to employees. For example, the canvas tent cabins are difficult and dangerous to assemble/disassemble and refurnish each year—resulting in heavy lifting and employees injuries. The living conditions within these tent cabins can be difficult: damaged canvas can leak during summer storms and nighttime temperatures can reach frigid levels. In addition, erecting tent cabins consumes employee time that could be applied to activities that contribute to an earlier opening date for Tioga Road. To eliminate several of these issues, we suggest erecting permanent, “hard top” housing to replace the tent cabins. In addition, this new (replacement) housing could be built in a manner that has a “rustic” look—keeping the Tuolumne and Yosemite feel, yet offering modernized accommodations for the employees. Though the current tent cabins were once “top of the line” when first implemented, Yosemite should now offer housing comparable to other park units in the National Park Service. However, we realize that some employees enjoy the rustic lifestyle of tent cabin living. Therefore, if a large percentage of Tuolumne park staff prefer tent cabin housing, then we suggest creating a plan that would retain some of the tent cabins in the best, least problematic location. If employees prefer “hard top” structures, we suggest erecting at least one tent cabin each year to serve as an interpretive exhibit for visitors—preserving the history of Tuolumne and the tent cabin lifestyle.”

(Conservation Organization, CA, Comment #288-2)

The National Park Service should provide a combination of tent cabins and hard-sided cabins.

“In Tuolumne, offering a diversity of housing types would be the ideal way to handle housing to protect the park, enhance staff morale and preserve the Tuolumne experience.. Having a majority of tent cabins and a small number of hard-sided cabins would offer flexibility to supervisors making housing decisions.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-30)

“I feel that a mixture of tent cabins and hard-sided cabins should be kept. The hard-sided cabins that have more insulation should be provided for employees who are working in Tuolumne Meadows for the longest part of the season where the beginning and end of season have the more extreme freezing cold night temperatures. For example, law enforcement rangers who arrive before or as the road opens and who stay until the road finally shuts down; any other employees who have a need for longer periods in Tuolumne; and any special cases where an employee needs warmer insulated housing. Most seasonal employees would have a lower impact on the land in tent cabins.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #352-16)

The National Park Service should avoid group housing accommodations in Tuolumne.

“Group housing would be unappealing, both because of the additional building it would require and the fact that it would force people to live in very close quarters, when most of us already work intensely with people all day long.”

(Individual, El Portal, CA, Comment #285-30)

The National Park Service should perform inspections of tent cabins in Tuolumne Meadows.

“I believe Park Service should inspect all units to make sure employees have proper facilities. This last season was a mess. I believe if the inspections were brought back, the tent cabins would be fine.”

(Individual, Yosemite, CA, Comment #327)